ANUARY 1956

VOLUME 2 · NUMBER 1

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

e 41.30/3

Featured in this issue . . .

CONSTRUCTION IN 1955

ESTIMATING DEMAND FOR PORTLAND CEMENT

- *Expenditures*
- *Starts*
- *Materials*
- *Awards*
- *Permits*
- *Costs*
- *Employment*

FEB 3 1956

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Duke University Library

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Sinclair Weeks, Secretary

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
James P. Mitchell, Secretary

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FIELD OFFICES

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX.
321 Post Office Bldg.

ATLANTA 5, GA.
50 Seventh St. NE

BOSTON 9, MASS.
U. S. Post Office and
Courthouse Bldg.

BUFFALO 3, N. Y.
117 Ellicott St.

CHARLESTON 4, S. C.
Area 2
Sergeant Jasper Bldg.

CHEYENNE, WYO.
307 Federal Office Bldg.

CHICAGO 6, ILL.
226 W. Jackson Blvd.

CINCINNATI 2, OHIO
422 U. S. Post Office
and Courthouse

CLEVELAND 14, OHIO
1100 Chester Ave.

DALLAS 2, TEX.
1114 Commerce St.

DENVER 2, COLO.
142 New Custom House

DETROIT 26, MICH.
438 Federal Bldg.

EL PASO, TEX.
Chamber of Commerce Bldg.

HOUSTON, TEX.
430 Lamar Ave.

JACKSONVILLE 1, FLA.
425 Federal Bldg.

KANSAS CITY 6, MO.
Federal Office Bldg.

LOS ANGELES 15, CALIF.
1031 S. Broadway

MEMPHIS 3, TENN.
212 Falls Bldg.

MIAMI 32, FLA.
316 U. S. Post Office Bldg.

MINNEAPOLIS 1, MINN.
319 Metropolitan Bldg.

NEW ORLEANS 12, LA.
333 St. Charles Ave.

NEW YORK 13, N. Y.
110 E. 45th St.

PHILADELPHIA 7, PA.
1015 Chestnut St.

PHOENIX, ARIZ.
137 N. Second Ave.

PITTSBURGH 22, PA.
107 Sixth St.

PORTLAND 4, OREG.
217 Old U. S. Courthouse

RENO, NEV.
1479 Wells Ave.

RICHMOND, VA.
1103 East Main Street

ST. LOUIS 1, MO.
910 New Federal Bldg.

SALT LAKE CITY 1, UTAH
222 S.W. Temple St.

SAN FRANCISCO 11, CALIF.
555 Battery St.

SAVANNAH, GA.
235 U. S. Courthouse and
Post Office Bldg.

SEATTLE 4, WASH.
909 First Ave.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS REGIONAL OFFICES

BOSTON 10, MASS.
18 Oliver St.

NEW YORK 1, N. Y.
341 Ninth Ave.

ATLANTA 5, GA.
50 Seventh St. NE

CHICAGO 3, ILL.
105 West Adams St.

SAN FRANCISCO 11, CALIF.
630 Sansome St.

Construction Review is prepared under the direction of

Walter W. Schneider, Chief
Construction Statistics and Economics Branch
BUILDING MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION
BUSINESS AND DEFENSE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Arnold E. Chase, Chief
Division of Construction Statistics
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Inquiries on the content may be addressed to Construction Review, in care of either agency.

Includes
Stat. Suppl. 1955
C 41.30/3
v. 2/1956

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

CONTENTS FOR JANUARY 1956

PAGE

AT A GLANCE 2

FEATURES:

Construction in 1955 4
Estimating Demand for Portland Cement 12

STATISTICAL SERIES:

Part I --Construction Put in Place 15
Part II --New Housing 20
*Part III --Building Permits 24
Part IV --Contract Awards 32
Part V --Costs (Indexes, Materials Prices, and Wage Rates) 34
Part VI --Materials 37
Part VII --Employment 45
Explanatory Notes (Omitted from this issue)
Index to Tables ..... Inside back cover

CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION (Published when Congress is in session; last shown in September 1955 issue.)

CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS 52

*Beginning with this issue, Part III will include a new trend table showing the number of nonresidential buildings for which building permits were issued.

NOTE: Contents of this publication emanating from governmental sources are not copyrighted and may be reprinted freely. Mention of Construction Review as the source will be appreciated. Data credited to private sources appear here through special arrangements and are still subject to the copyrights of the compilers.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. Subscription price per year--$3 domestic; $4 foreign. Single copies, at 30 cents each, may be purchased from any of the Department of Commerce Field Offices or the Bureau of Labor Statistics Regional Offices.

The printing of this publication was approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget (December 16, 1954).

At a Glance

NEW CONSTRUCTION PUT IN PLACE IN 1955--Outlays for new construction totaled $42-1/4 billion in 1955, establishing a new annual record for the ninth successive year. Outlays set new records in 1955 for each month. The value of all private construction put in place rose 17 percent over the year to $30-1/4 billion in 1955, and public outlays edged upward by 2 percent to $12 billion. Private residential building activity accounted for two-thirds of the total dollar gain from 1954, and reached a new high of $16.6 billion in 1955.

HOUSING STARTS IN NOVEMBER--Nonfarm housing starts declined slightly more than seasonally in November to 90,000--16 percent under October. Private starts (89,200 units) in November were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,203,000 units--about 3 percent below the rates for the previous 2 months. The countrywide October-November decrease was about equally divided between housing begun with conventional and with Government-assisted (VA and FHA) financing. In the first 11 months of 1955, nearly 1,237,000 of the 1,253,000 units started were privately owned, virtually assuring an annual total of more than 1,300,000 private units in 1955.

FHA-VA ACTIVITY IN NOVEMBER--Nonfarm housing starts under the VA program fell 19 percent in November, after a slight rise in October. Starts under the FHA program, generally downward since June, declined another 5 percent in November. Combined VA-FHA starts in November accounted for approximately the same proportion of total private starts (52 percent) as in the previous 2 months. The downtrend in both applications for FHA insurance and requests for VA appraisals continued in November--to the lowest level in almost 2 years--foreshadowing declines in Government-assisted homebuilding in the first few months of 1956.

NONFARM MORTGAGES IN OCTOBER--The value of nonfarm mortgage recordings declined for the second month--down 5 percent from September. The 12-percent decline during October in savings and loan association mortgages, which accounted for most of the total drop, reflects the continued effects of the mid-September curb on member borrowing from district Home Loan Banks for mortgage lending, which was relaxed on December 13. (See Construction Regulations, this issue.) During the first 10 months of 1955, mortgage recordings neared $24 billion--29 percent above the record for this period set in 1954. Gains ranged from 16 percent for insurance companies to 36 percent for commercial banks, with savings and loan mortgages up 33 percent despite the September curb.

PUBLIC CONTRACT AWARDS IN OCTOBER--The value of contract awards for public construction in October 1955 was off 8 percent from both September 1955 and October 1954. The declines occurred in State and local work, as well as federally owned projects. Comparing the first 10 months of the year, awards by State and local governments were 7 percent higher in 1955 than a year earlier, chiefly because of increases in utilities and highway construction, while the Federal total was off by 6 percent, principally because of reduced commitments for AEC installations. The January-October total for all public construction was $7.3 billion in 1955--4 percent above the same 1954 period.

CONTRACTS AWARDED IN THE 37 EASTERN STATES IN NOVEMBER--Although contracts awarded in the 37 States east of the Rocky Mountains declined moderately from October, the November $1.8-billion total was at an alltime high for the month. The November decrease of 4 percent was smaller than in recent years, as declines in residential and nonresidential building were partly offset by gains in engineering awards (mainly utilities). The $21.8-billion total for the first 11 months of 1955 was 22 percent above the comparable 1954 figure. All major types of construction shared in this gain.

At a Glance

CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN NOVEMBER--Construction costs crept up again in November to 126.8 percent of the 1947-49 average, according to the Commerce Department's Composite Cost Index. The 4-percent rise from a year earlier reflects slightly higher costs on all kinds of construction, particularly the larger types of building such as apartments, and commercial and factory building.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS IN NOVEMBER--The wholesale price index for building materials declined fractionally in November from the alltime high in October--marking the first decline in the almost steady rise that began in mid-1954. The November 1955 index (128.2) was 5 percent above November 1954. The October-November decline was chiefly due to lower prices for asphalt roofing, and, to a lesser degree, for Douglas fir lumber. These were partly seasonal decreases, but they may also reflect the recent decline in residential building in which these products' are used extensively. A 5-percent increase in plumbing brass resulted from earlier sharp price rises for nonferrous metals. Slight increases were reported for cement, concrete products, and structural clay products.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS OUTPUT IN OCTOBER--The production of Portland cement rose in October to an alltime monthly peak of more than 27.9 million barrels, but high-volume shipments left month-end stocks at the lowest October level since 1952. Despite some decline from September in the output of other major materials (notably paint, varnish, and lacquer), a postwar October high was scored by three groups of products--lumber and wood, clay construction, and iron and steel. Compared with October 1954, the iron and steel output index was 20 percent higher this October, and all other groups exceeded the year-ago level except millwork.

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT IN NOVEMBER--The number of workers on contractors' payrolls declined for the second successive month in November to 2,568,000, largely in response to seasonal influences and the interruption of work in the Los Angeles area. Area data available through October show that the only place in which employment declined significantly from the preceding month was Los Angeles, where a teamsters strike curtailed deliveries of sand, gravel, and ready-mixed concrete. This work stoppage continued through November.

HOURS AND EARNINGS IN OCTOBER--Weekly pay in contract construction declined by $2.24 in October, to an average of $98.63, but still set a record for the month. The September-October decrease in weekly earnings, due almost entirely to a 1-hour decline in the workweek, was shared by workers on all types of construction, except electrical work, which showed a slight increase in both pay and hours. Compared with October 1954, average weekly and hourly earnings for the industry as a whole were higher this October, by about 3 percent. The average workweek in October 1955, at 37.5 hours, was virtually unchanged from the previous October.

APPRENTICES IN BUILDING TRADES, THIRD QUARTER 1955--The uptrend in apprentice registrations from the low levels of 1954 continued in the third quarter of 1955 in all major building trades. Despite substantial increases in recent months, however, fewer apprentices were being trained in the carpentry, painting and paperhanging, plumbing and pipefitting, and trowel trades in 1955 than in 1950 when large numbers of World War II veterans were being trained. The 1954-55 gains in registrations were countrywide, with the exception of a few Southern States.

Construction in 1955

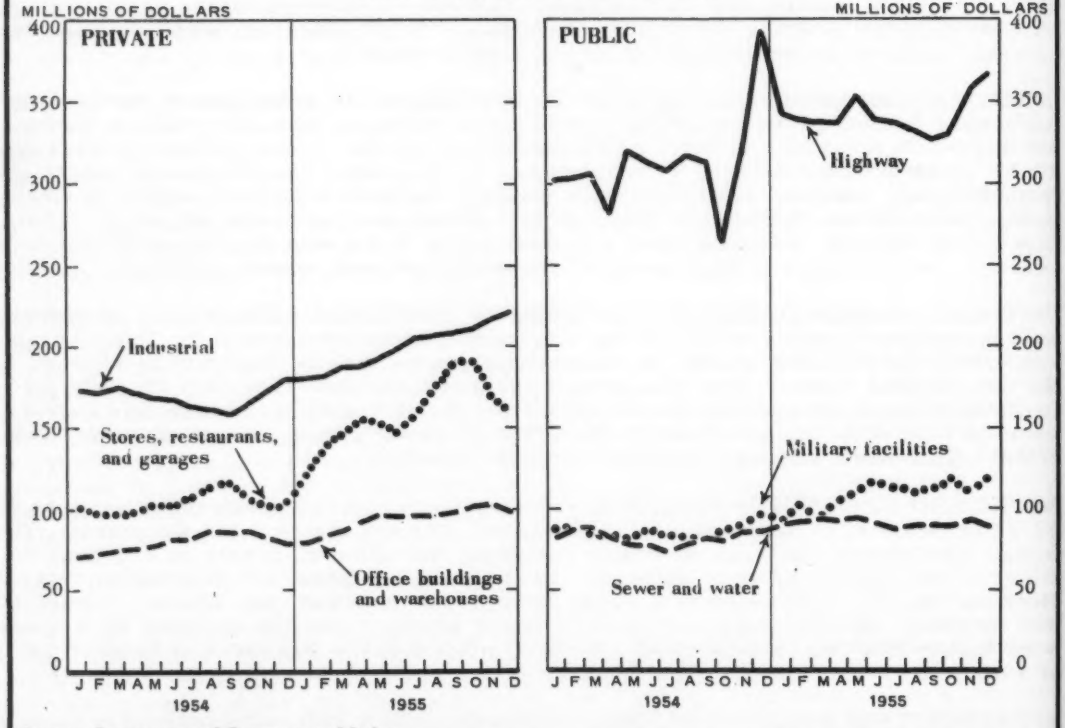
Construction activity played a leading role in the dramatic economic expansion of 1955. The dollar value of new construction rose 12 percent to a record level of $42-1/4 billion last year. This represented nearly 11 percent of the gross national product, the highest ratio since the historic building boom of the 1920's. Even when account is taken of price changes, the rate of construction activity in 1955 reflected the putting in place of more structures and facilities than in any previous year.

Construction in 1955 both supported and was stimulated by the sharp economic upturn which began in late 1954. The influences which maintained construction activity at record levels during the brief recession of 1953-54 were still operative in 1955, and to them was added the stimulus of general economic expansion.

Chart 1

Expenditures for Selected Types of Construction

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Rate



Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

Among the continuing influences supporting construction activity in 1955 was a huge backlog of need for community facilities such as schools, churches, roads, and sewer and water works, and for shopping, and other business structures to serve numerous new communities. For some types of construction--principally school and church building and road and highway work--recent requirements are in addition to a large remaining backlog accumulated during war and postwar restrictions. Population increase and mobility, a continuous rise in personal incomes, stability in consumer prices over the past several years, and accelerated rehabilitation of urban centers have helped to maintain the demand for new private housing.

The same strong response to these influences took place in 1955 as in 1954, but the rise in most private building construction, and especially commercial building, was sharpened by the general

growth in economic activity. In addition, construction of private industrial facilities reversed the downtrend of the 1953-54 recession, and (after allowance for seasonal variation) rose continuously throughout the year, as industry endeavored to meet greatly increased production demands (chart 1).

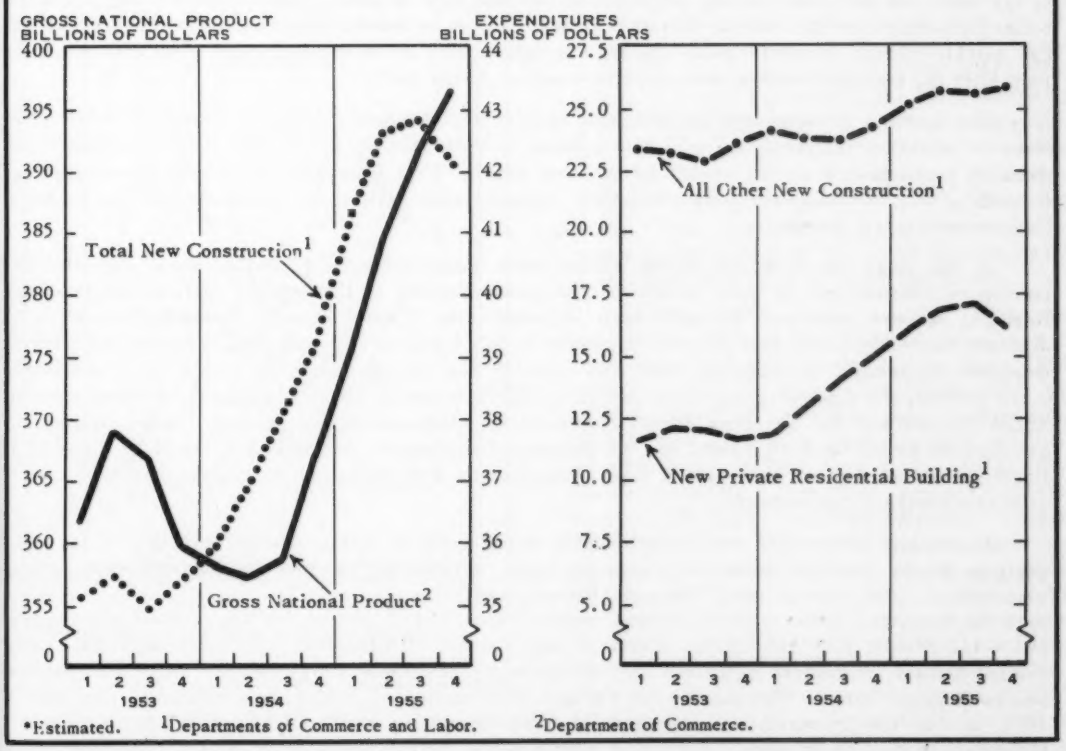
Almost all of the $4.7 billion rise in new construction in 1955 was for private work, which increased 17 percent to $30-1/4 billion. Approximately two-thirds of the rise was for new private housing. Private nonresidential building accounted for a substantial part of the remainder.

The dollar volume of public construction, at $12 billion, crept slightly above the 1954 figure, chiefly because of continuing gains in the construction of schools, roads, and sewer and water facilities, for which expenditures have risen throughout the post-World War II period. These types of work accounted for three-fifths of all public construction in 1954-55, and have been responsible for a steady uptrend in public construction as a whole even though outlays for Federal projects dropped steadily after the defense buildup in the period 1949 to 1952. The first rise in expenditures for military facilities since 1952 occurred last year. Although substantial (26 percent), it was more than offset by a sharp reduction in outlays for federally owned industrial projects (reflecting virtual completion of currently programmed atomic energy facilities) and for conservation and development work, mostly by the Bureau of Reclamation, Army Engineers, and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Chart 2

Gross National Product and New Construction Expenditures

Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate



*Estimated. [1]Departments of Commerce and Labor. [2]Department of Commerce.

Construction activity as a whole continued at record levels for each month throughout 1955. When adjusted for seasonal variation, expenditures rose continuously until summer, leveled off, and then drifted downward beginning in early fall, reflecting primarily the trend in private housing. This was the first steady decline in the annual rate of new construction (seasonally adjusted) since mid-1953, and it took place during a continuing substantial rise in the gross national product (chart 2).

Private Nonfarm Housing

The dollar value of new private homebuilding in 1955 rose to nearly $15 billion, more than in any year since 1950. This set a new record for private housing, even after adjustment for price changes. Much of the early 1955 spending on new housing was for work still under way on the unprecedented number of units started late in 1954.

As measured by the number of new dwelling units started, new private housing activity last winter was the largest winter volume in our history. For the November 1954-March 1955 period, it amounted to an annual rate (seasonally adjusted) of 1,400,000 units during the November 1954-March 1955 period. More than 1,300,000 privately owned units were begun in 1955 as a whole--second only to the 1,352,000 started in 1950, and about 9 percent more than in 1954.

The volume of housing activity and the state of the housing market were major causes of concern and discussion throughout the year. The influence of private housing volume on total new construction activity is well recognized, since homebuilding is the largest single type of construction. In most post-World War II years, new private homebuilding has accounted for about a third of all new construction expenditures--usually somewhat more than for all kinds of public work. Any substantial change in this segment of the industry vitally affects the industry as a whole.

Further, new homebuilding greatly influences general economic conditions. The influence on the economy of rising or falling trends in residential building is not confined to the effects on producers, handlers, and suppliers of building materials and housefurnishings. Of special significance is the vital part that homebuilding plays in the ebb and flow of money, since homebuilding is a major outlet for savings and investment. Reverses or acceleration in homebuilding, and in the housing market, can quickly initiate or substantially aggravate a deflationary or inflationary trend. For this reason in particular the housing situation was carefully watched during 1955.

The housing situation was viewed with special apprehension during the first half of the year. Because of the extraordinary 1954-55 winter boom in homebuilding, rough calculations indicated that dwelling units placed on the market in the first half of 1955 exceeded the number in any previous 6-month period, including the peak year 1950. Consideration was given to indications that an inflationary spiral might develop.

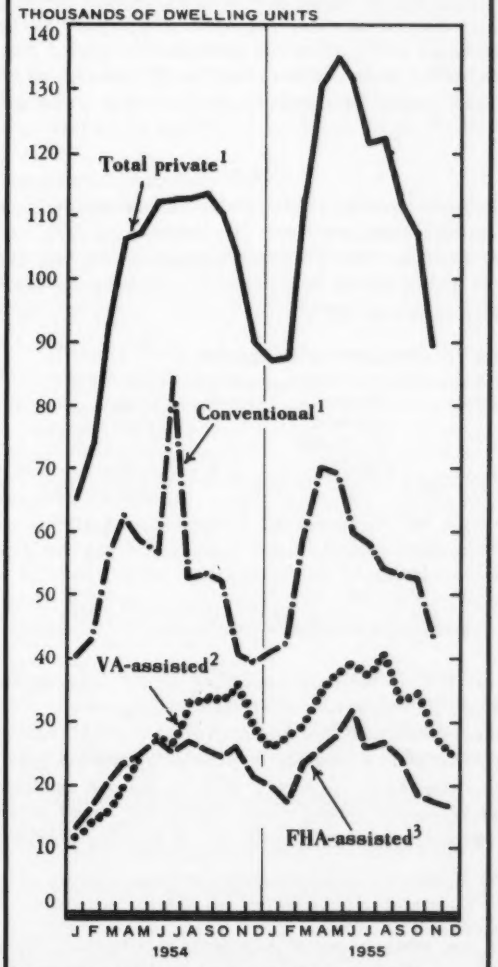
In the meantime, however, money market rates increased rapidly, as business, industry, and consumers, encouraged by good business conditions, flocked to the lending institutions to obtain financing for new ventures. To hold credit in bounds, the Federal Reserve Board increased the rediscount rate early in the year from 1-1/2 percent to 1-3/4 percent. A series of other anti-inflationary measures followed. The rediscount rate was raised 3 more times, and at the end of the year stood at 2-1/2 percent, the highest in more than 20 years. Furthermore, at the end of July the Federal Housing Administration and the Veterans Administration raised downpayment requirements and curtailed the amortization period for FHA-insured and VA-guaranteed mortgages. In September, the Home Loan Bank Board prohibited member Savings and Loan Associations from borrowing from their district banks to meet new mortgage commitments.

Increasing competition for funds, despite rising interest rates, affected the degree to which mortgage money was readily available on easy terms, well before the July and September regulations were issued. Early in the year, VA- and FHA-assisted home mortgages lost some of their attractiveness for investors, because of their fixed interest rates (4-1/2 percent for VA-guaranteed mortgages and 4-1/2 percent plus 1/2 percent service charge for the FHA-insured). A dearth of credit became evident earliest in attempts to finance the riskiest mortgages--those VA-guaranteed loans with 30-year, no-downpayment terms. Discounting of VA and FHA mortgages, which was relatively rare late in 1954, became more prevalent. Conventionally financed housing starts edged off in May and began a steady sharp decline in June. The Government-assisted units started down later. They were maintained in the interval by the large number of units financed under the easy credit conditions of 1954 and early 1955 (chart 3). Most significant of all was the sharp downturn in applications for FHA mortgage insurance and in appraisal requests to the VA, which began in April. The downtrend in these inquiries, which usually are made several months in advance of construction, augured the drop in housing starts that began at mid-year.

Private nonfarm housing starts declined more than seasonally in the latter half of the year. In fact, the annual rate of private dwelling units started (seasonally adjusted) declined gradually in each succeeding quarter, from a little more than 1,384,000 in the first quarter, to 1,361,000, 1,281,000 and 1,211,000 in the second and succeeding quarters. In December, after a sharp decline in new loans made by Savings and Loan Associations following the September restriction, the order was relaxed to permit these institutions to borrow once again from their district home loan banks for mortgage-lending purposes, but within prescribed limits. (See page 52.)

Chart 3

Nonfarm Housing Starts
Privately Owned: Type of Financing



[1]Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
[2]Veterans Administration.
[3]Federal Housing Administration.

Characteristics of the Housing

Relatively more 1-family houses were put under construction in 1955 than in any previous year--9 in 10 of all the dwelling units started. Single-family housebuilding has always predominated but never more than during the post-World War II period, reflecting strong motivation toward home ownership.

Prices of single-family houses started in the first quarter of 1955 averaged higher in all regions of the country than in the same period of 1954.[1] The price rise was about 11 percent nationally (from a median of $12,300 to $13,700), and ranged from 4 percent in the Northeast to 12 percent in the North Central and Western regions. The rise in average price reflected a marked shift from smaller houses to those in the moderate size range (between 1,000 and 1,500 square feet). Also, there was a strong uptrend everywhere in the number of 3-bedroom houses, and a corresponding decline in 2-bedroom houses.

About 19,000 public housing units were started in 1955, a few hundred more than in 1954, when volume was the lowest since 1948. About a third of these were begun under the sole auspices of State and local governments, chiefly New York City, with scattered programs in other parts of New York State, and in other States, including Connecticut, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Locally subsidized New York City projects alone accounted for almost a fourth of all the public dwelling units started in 1955. About 4,800 units were begun under a program authorized in 1954 for providing family quarters for military personnel at Army, Navy, and Air Force bases.[2] The rest of the public housing started in 1955, about 9,000 units, or half of the total, was built and owned by local housing authorities to which the Federal Government pays a regular subsidy during operation of the projects, to insure low rentals

[1] Based on sample surveys of the characteristics of private housing started in the first quarter of 1954 and 1955, by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. More details from these studies will be presented in an article in a forthcoming issue of Construction Review.

[2] Authorized in September 1954, by Public Law 765, 83d Congress.

for qualified applicants. Most of the 1955 units in these federally aided projects were authorized by legislation prior to the Housing Act of 1954.

Houses begun with VA assistance accounted for most of the increase (over 80 percent) in private housing starts last year, and made up a third of the private total--the largest ratio since the VA housing program was inaugurated in 1944. The number of FHA-insured units remained about the same, but the proportion declined, to less than one-fourth. The sharp increase in houses with VA-guaranteed mortgages reflected the wave of liberal financing during 1954 when mortgage funds were plentiful. In fact, about half of all the VA loans closed for new houses, even into the latter part of 1955, carried 30-year, no-downpayment terms. Financing for these units was arranged in 1954 and early 1955, prior to the July 30 regulation in 1955 raising downpayment requirements and cutting the amortization period from 30 to 25 years. About 80 percent of the VA units for which loans were closed in 1955 and about 75 percent in 1954 were priced at $10,000 or more. These proportions were about the same as for all 1-family houses.

Location of the Housing

As in 1954, close to three-fourths of the new housing started in 1955 was located in metropolitan areas. The 10 metropolitan areas leading in housing activity this year were the same as in 1954, and with approximately the same ranking.[3] A preliminary estimate based on building-permit reports and surveys in nonpermit-issuing segments of some of these areas, shows that these 10 metropolitan areas alone probably accounted for almost a third of all housing starts in 1955.

NONFARM HOUSING STARTS IN RELATION TO POPULATION, BY REGION

Region	Population[1] (*In thousands*)			Number of starts per 10,000 population		Number of 1955 starts per 10,000 population increase, 1954 to 1955
	Total		Increase 1954-55			
	1954	1955		1954	1955	
United States	**159,078**	**162,284**	**3,206**	**77**	**82**	**4,149**
Northeast	41,601	42,393	792	58	66	3,529
North Central	47,166	48,137	971	69	74	3,669
South	48,502	49,144	642	74	77	5,930
West	21,809	22,610	801	134	139	3,918

[1] As of July 1.

The 4 broad regions shared the housing starts in 1955 as follows, according to preliminary figures: South, 29 percent; North Central, 27 percent; West, 23 percent; and Northeast, 21 percent. The Northeast, which is the most densely settled of the four regions, may not be keeping pace with housing demand, since it ranked below all other regions in the ratio of new housing to population, and to population increase (1950-55, and 1954-55). (See table.) The West, however, with by far the smallest population of any of the regions, but with the greatest volume of immigration, ranked far ahead of thr others in new housing per unit of 1955 population. However, it was relatively low in housing provided per unit of population increase.

Business Plant Expansion

Prosperity in 1955 buoyed construction outlays for most types of business facilities. Plant expansion climbed 18 percent to a record $2.4 billion, after a 9-percent drop in 1954. Numerous durable- and nondurable-goods industries were represented in the rise, but increases were especially substantial in the iron and steel and nonelectrical machinery groups of the durable-goods industries, and in the rubber and paper industries, in the nondurable-goods group.

Both store and office building rose substantially in 1955, but the rate of increase in outlays for the former (stores, restaurants, and garages) accelerated last year, whereas the rate of increase in

[3] See Fifty Leading Areas in Homebuilding in 1954. (*In* Construction Review, September 1955.) The areas, ranked for 1955, are: Los Angeles, New York-Northeastern New Jersey, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, San Francisco-Oakland, Washington, Dallas, Miami, and Baltimore. The only change from 1954 placed Dallas ahead of Miami.

office building, although large (17 percent), was on the downtrend. The 1955 dollar volume was at record levels for both types of commercial building.

Well over half of the total value of the stores and gasoline and service stations for which building permits were issued in metropolitan areas in 1955 was scheduled for the fast-growing suburbs. The suburbs attracted a relatively much smaller volume of office building--about 20 percent. Because of the congestion of the central cities, where most office building is taking place, new construction often follows the demolition of old structures. Both because of this fact and continuing good business and heavy demand, office vacancies are still relatively low, although higher than at the trough in 1946.

Construction by the public utilities in 1955 remained at about the record level of the previous 2 years. A decline in provision of electric light and power facilities was more than offset by a rise in extension of gas lines. Expenditures for most other types of public utility facilities increased last year, except for railroads, for which construction outlays declined for the second successive year.

Construction Materials Output

Reflecting the uptrend in construction activity and general business confidence, the output of construction materials was substantially higher in 1955 than in 1954. Previous production records were exceeded during the year for most major groups of products, including lumber and wood products, millwork, asphalt products, clay construction products, gypsum products, plumbing fixtures, iron and steel products, and Portland cement.

Demand for both structural steel and Portland cement pressed so hard on the supply during 1955 that serious spot shortages were reported. Steel mills were operating close to capacity most of the year and capacity increased substantially. However, deliveries of steel to fabricators could not keep up with demand, so that the total backlog of orders mounted, and by October was almost 50 percent higher than in October 1954. The sharply rising demand for structural steel resulted largely from the heavy increase in industrial and office buildings, along with a still rising volume of highway work.

Estimated domestic requirements for Portland cement in 1955 were about 285 million barrels, within 5 percent of capacity.[4] By the peak of demand in October, mill stocks had fallen to less than 9 million barrels. Although this level of stocks was not quite as low as for similar periods in some previous years, it offered little cushion for the recent unusually large volume of industrial, military, and highway construction, which use cement more than other types of work.

Costs

Construction costs rose steadily in 1955 and by the end of the year were about 5 percent above 1954 levels, according to available indexes. Most of the increase occurred in the latter half of the year, however, largely in response to substantial advances in the prices of metals and metal products.

The overall rise in construction costs in 1955, although moderate compared with most other postwar years, was substantially more than in 1954 when residential construction costs remained virtually stable, while other costs increased (chart 4). Costs for all kinds of construction rose this past year. This general uptrend reflected primarily the pressure of a rapidly rising volume of most kinds of construction on prices. The wholesale prices of building materials increased about 6 percent in 1955 and about 1 percent in 1954. At the same time, the hourly earnings and union wage rates of building construction workers increased about the same in 1955 as in 1954.

Prices of building materials. Wholesale prices of building materials continued to rise more than other commodity prices in 1955.[5] After a steady uptrend from mid-1954, the wholesale price index of building materials reached a peak of 128.7 (1947-49 = 100) in October 1955. More than half of this increase occurred last summer, when rising prices for steel, copper, and aluminum were reflected in the prices of metal products, such as structural steel shapes, reinforcing bars, pipe, plumbing and heating equipment, and metal sash. Price increases over the year were greatest, generally, for metal products,

---

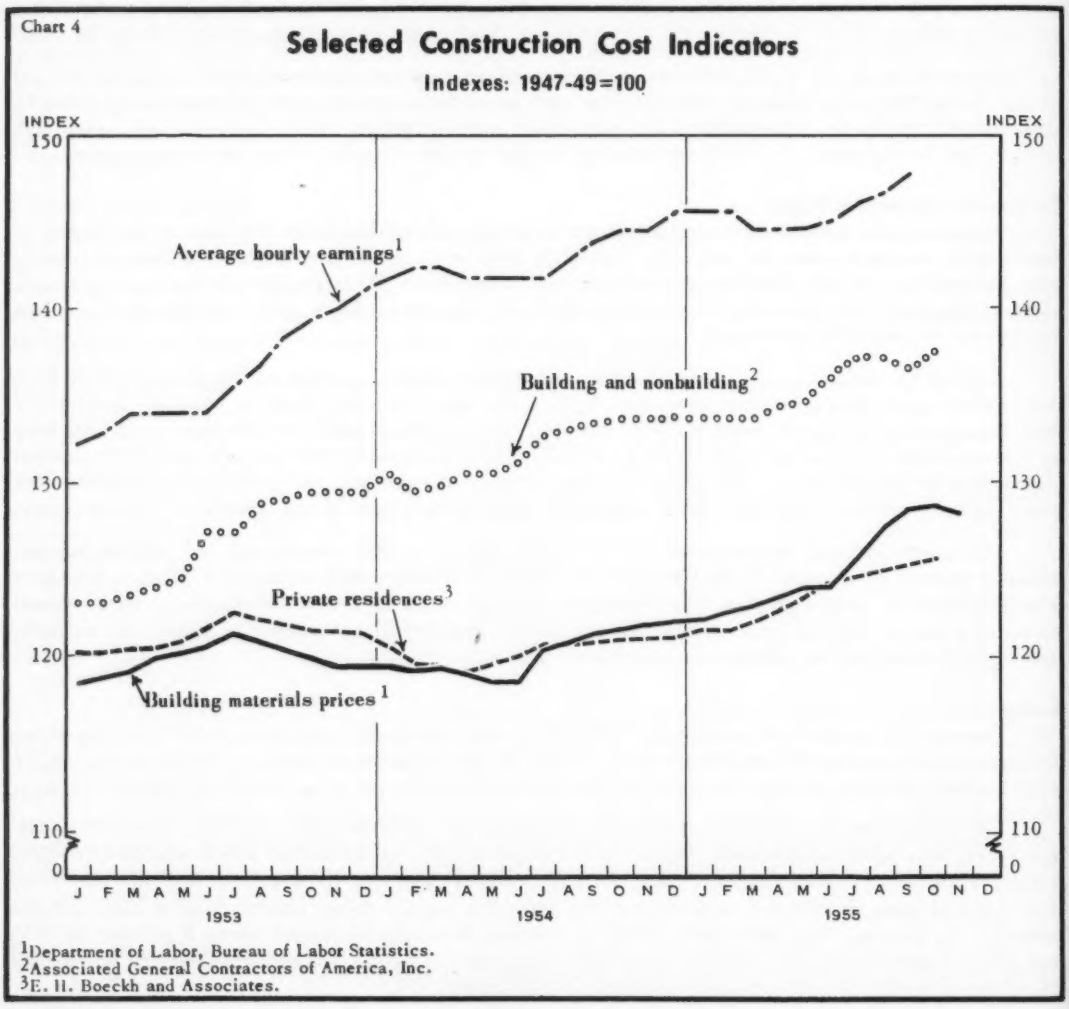
[4] See Estimating Demand for Portland Cement in 1956 (p. 12).

[5] For historical perspective see Prices of Building Materials, 1950-55. (*In* Construction Review, September 1955.)

structural clay products, and the hardwoods. Only moderate price increases of 3 percent or less were reported for Portland cement, concrete products, paint and paint materials, building board, and the major softwoods (Douglas fir and Southern pine). Prices of millwork and insulation materials declined.

For the first time in over a year the steady climb of the wholesale price index for building materials halted in November 1955. This may foreshadow some price weakening owing to the downtrend in residential building during the latter half of the year. (See At A Glance, page 3.)

Chart 4



[1]Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
[2]Associated General Contractors of America, Inc.
[3]E. H. Boeckh and Associates.

Employment and Wages

Employment in contract construction increased roughly 4 percent in 1955, to an average of about 2,600,000.[6] Although the increase was small, some rise occurred in every section of the country. The most pronounced increases were in the New England and Pacific States.

[6] This figure is somewhat higher than the average that would be obtained from currently published data for the national contract construction employment series. It is based upon estimates for the first 10 months of the year computed for individual States by State agencies cooperating with BLS. Preliminary computations of proposed revisions in the national series, based on adjustment to first quarter 1955 benchmarks (to be published in May), are in general agreement with the upward trend shown.

Most of the 24 largest metropolitan areas (those of over 500,000 population in 1950) for which contract construction employment data are available, showed some increase from 1954 to 1955. The rise was fairly substantial in Boston, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and San Francisco-Oakland. A decline in Detroit was relatively large (about 8 percent). In the other areas, construction employment stayed the same, or showed only a slight rise or decline.

Average weekly earnings of contract construction workers reached $100 for the first time last September, when 1955 earnings were at a peak of $100.87. Weekly and hourly earnings last year averaged a little above those of the previous record in 1954, even though the workweek was about the same. This was because wage rates continued to advance. The most frequent wage-rate increase provided in new union contracts in the building trades last year (7 major trades in 85 cities) was 10 cents. The next most frequent advances were for 5 cents and 12-1/2 cents. On the whole, the increase in union scales in 1955 averaged about the same as in 1954.

Although the emphasis in 1955 settlements was on increasing wage scales, there were changes in supplemental benefits as well, thus continuing the recent gradual uptrend in fringe benefits in the building trades. As of July 1, 1955, more than three-fifths of the unionized construction workers in cities of 100,000 population or more were covered by union-negotiated health and welfare funds, and about a sixth were covered by union-negotiated pension funds--a slight rise over 1954.

A substantial number of the major contracts negotiated in 1955 were for a period of at least 2 years, and specified subsequent wage increases, as well as increases for 1955. It is estimated that contracts covering about half a million building trade workers specify the increase in wage scales for 1956.

Unlike the trend in industry generally, the number of work stoppages in the construction trades declined in 1955, according to preliminary indications. This marks the second successive year of decrease in construction strikes since the peak year 1953.

PATENT INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE

A series of new pamphlets enables the public to enjoy wider access to information on inventions covered by patents either owned by the Federal Government or licensed to a Federal agency and obtainable on a license basis from the inventor or present owner of the patent. The pamphlets listing approximately 5,000 Government-owned patents by industry classification are:

P.B.111464--Patent Abstract #1--Instrumentation--$2
P.B.111465--Patent Abstract #2--Chemical Products and Processes--$3
P.B.111466--Patent Abstract #3--Food Products and Processes--$1
P.B.111467--Patent Abstract #4--Metal Processes and Apparatus, Machinery and Transportation--$2
P.B.111468--Patent Abstract #5--Electrical and Electronic Apparatus--$4
P.B.111469--Patent Abstract #6--Ordnance--$2
P.B.111470--Patent Abstract #7--Ceramic, Paper, Rubber, Textile, Wood, and Other Products and Processes--$1

Construction and related industries may find of special interest Patent Abstract #2 which contains information on paints, varnishes, inks and pigments, and wood products and processes. Patent Abstract #7 contains information on ceramics (glass, cement, clay, pottery, concrete, gypsum, etc.) and wood.

Copies of these publications may be purchased at the prices indicated above, or $12 for the set, from the Office of Technical Services, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C., or from any of the 33 Commerce Department Field Offices (see inside front cover of Construction Review for addresses).

Brief descriptions of over 21,000 inventions, including those owned by the Government, are found in the Index of Patented Inventions which is accessible in the Public Search Room, U. S. Patent Office, Department of Commerce Building, Washington, D. C.

Estimating Demand for Portland Cement

NATHAN H. SCHEIN*

Recent outlook figures [1] of new construction activity for 1956 exceeding the 1955 peak by about 5 percent, raise the crucial question of whether 1956 production of construction materials[2] will be sufficient to meet the expected demand. This question is pertinent, particularly regarding Portland cement, because of an anticipated 12-percent rise in expenditures for highway construction--one of the major sources of cement demand.

Since virtually the entire output of cement is used by the construction industry, a technique was developed in 1954 whereby cement requirements (particularly for a short term of 1 or 2 years) can be projected by relating historical information on cement shipments to new construction activity.[3] The use of this correlation technique for short-range forecasts, however, requires recomputation of the estimating equations whenever additional data become available. The results of this reapplication of the methodology to 1946-54 figures on domestic consumption of cement and construction expenditures are presented in this article.

These findings indicate that the anticipated level of new construction in 1956 will require about 290 million barrels of Portland cement for domestic consumption, or slightly more than in 1955. (See accompanying table.) This forecast, however, represents a statistically derived figure and is subject to statistical error. In this instance, the probability of actual consumption varying from the estimate by as much as approximately 6.8 million barrels is very small (only about 5 chances out of 100).

DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF PORTLAND CEMENT AND VALUE OF NEW CONSTRUCTION, 1946-56

Year	Portland cement domestic consumption (*Millions of barrels*)		Calculated consumption as percent of actual	Value of new construction put in place (*Millions of dollars in 1947-49 prices*)		
	Actual	Calculated [1]		Residential building	Nonresidential building	All other
1946	166.9	168.1	100.7	5,644	4,980	4,907
1947	183.5	180.2	98.2	6,930	4,019	6,835
1948	202.0	199.2	98.6	8,316	4,715	7,732
1949	204.9	209.3	102.1	8,481	5,114	8,582
1950	230.9	231.8	100.4	11,955	5,803	8,850
1951	242.6	245.3	101.1	9,969	7,544	9,475
1952	248.7	249.6	100.4	9,861	7,676	10,125
1953	259.2	258.2	99.6	10,299	8,186	10,446
1954	273.1	270.2	98.9	11,495	8,816	10,601
1955*	--	284.4	--	13,403	9,310	10,924
1956*	--	290.3	--	12,912	9,838	11,454

Source: Domestic consumption of Portland cement from U. S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines; construction activity from U. S. Department of Commerce and U. S. Department of Labor.

*Estimated.

[1] Calculated from equation.

Total mill output required for both domestic consumption and the export market is expected to approximate 296 million barrels. As of September 30, 1955, annual production capacity of Portland cement was about 300 million barrels.[4] Since a number of new plants and additions to existing plants,

---

* Of the Building Materials and Construction Division, Business and Defense Services Administration, U. S. Department of Commerce.

[1] See Outlook for Construction in 1956. (*In* Construction Review, November 1955.)

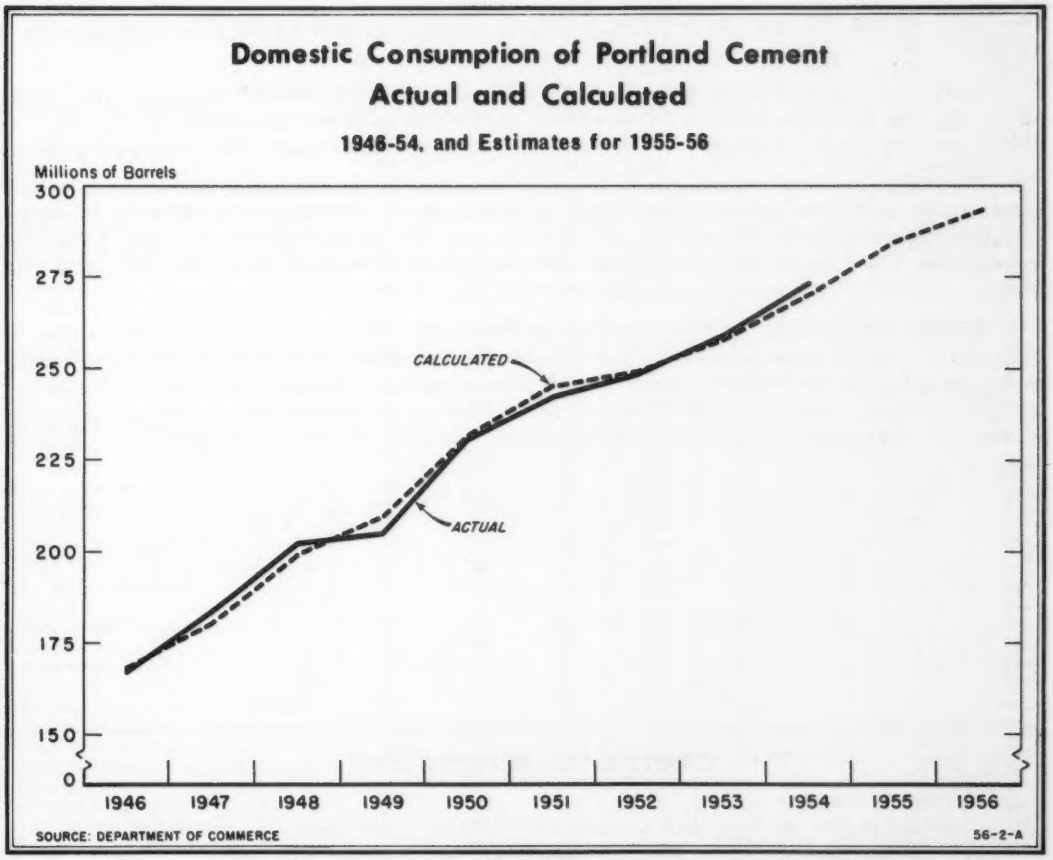
[2] See Estimating the Demand for Fabricated Structural Steel. (*In* Construction Review, December 1955.)

[3] See The Demand for Cement. (*In* Construction and Building Materials, July 1954, U. S. Department of Commerce, Business and Defense Services Administration.)

[4] See Monthly Cement Report of the Bureau of Mines (U. S. Department of Interior) No. CP 412--Supplement A.

now under construction, will start producing sometime in 1956,[5] it is expected that 1956 will see some easing from the tight 1955 situation. Even if this somewhat greater supply of cement materializes in 1956, however, it is likely that local shortages will still occur.

It was found in the 1954 analysis that for practical estimating purposes it was sufficient to relate cement shipments to three major segments of construction activity: (1) Residential building, (2) Nonresidential building, and (3) All other construction. In that study, these construction expenditures series were related to total mill shipments of Portland cement on the assumption that this was an adequate measure of total consumption. A refinement has been introduced in the present analysis by combining net imports and exports with total mill shipments, thereby obtaining a more accurate measure of domestic consumption of Portland cement.



As was true in the original analysis, the nature of the relationship between cement consumption and new residential and nonresidential building remains linear, whereas the relationship with all other new construction activity is non-linear. This explains the use of the logarithmic function for the "All other" group in the multiple regression equation.

Figures on domestic cement consumption and construction expenditures for 1946-54, shown in the accompanying table, were used in deriving the following multiple regression equation:

5 Results of a cement capacity study now being conducted will be published in an early issue of Construction Review.

$$X_{1c} = 13.37247 + 3.99776X_2 + 10.2917X_3 + 117.14379 \log X_4$$

where X_{1c} = calculated domestic consumption of Portland cement in millions of barrels,

X_2 = new residential construction in millions of dollars (1947-49 prices),

X_3 = new nonresidential construction in millions of dollars (1947-49 prices),

X_4 = all other new construction in millions of dollars (1947-49 prices).

The value of two standard errors is ±6.8 million barrels, adjusted for the loss of four degrees of freedom.

Calculated values of consumption for each year, 1946-56, were obtained by substituting values for X_2, X_3, and X_4 in the equation. Comparisons between actual domestic consumption for the years 1946-54 and calculated consumption are shown in the accompanying table and chart.

The reliability of an estimating equation is demonstrated by the closeness with which calculated values correspond to the actual observations. In this analysis, closeness of fit between actual and calculated consumption is measured by two standard errors (5 percent variability). This means that in only about 5 percent of the observations would the difference between actual and calculated shipments be expected to exceed the value of two standard errors (plus or minus).

Although the estimate for 1956 consumption shown here was derived from the 1956 outlook for construction activity prepared jointly by the Departments of Commerce and Labor, it would be possible to develop a forecast of Portland cement consumption by applying the above equation to another construction activity outlook. It should be noted that the accuracy of the forecasts of cement requirements is inherently dependent on the accuracy of the outlook figures for the various segments of construction activity.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS GUIDE

A pocket-size Building and Construction Workers Guide which summarizes in easy-to-understand language the wage, overtime, and other laws applicable to federally financed and assisted construction contracts. It explains the kinds of construction jobs which have Federal wage requirements and lists the Federal agencies responsible for enforcing labor standards laws. It also gives the addresses of the regional attorneys of the U. S. Department of Labor who may be consulted for additional information on the operation of these laws.

Copies of this pamphlet, prepared by the Office of the Solicitor, U. S. Department of Labor, may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 15 cents each.

STATISTICAL SERIES

NOTE: ALL THE STATISTICAL SERIES IN CONSTRUCTION REVIEW ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION FOR THE LATEST PERIOD SHOWN.

Part I--Construction Put in Place

Table 1.--New Construction Put in Place: Current Month, by Type of Construction*

Type of construction	Value (*in millions of dollars*)					Percent change		
	1955		1954	Annual total		Dec. 1955 from--		Year
	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	1955	1954	Nov. 1955	Dec. 1954	1954 to 1955
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	**3,177**	**3,617**	**3,092**	**42,250**	**37,577**	**-12**	**+ 3**	**+12**
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	**2,410**	**2,632**	**2,263**	**30,250**	**25,768**	**- 8**	**+ 6**	**+17**
Residential building (nonfarm)	1,283	1,422	1,258	16,600	13,496	-10	+ 2	+23
New dwelling units	1,160	1,280	1,150	14,990	12,070	- 9	+ 1	+24
Additions and alterations	92	110	86	1,273	1,130	-16	+ 7	+13
Nonhousekeeping	31	32	22	337	296	- 3	+41	+14
Nonresidential building	683	717	552	7,624	6,250	- 5	+24	+22
Industrial	226	225	184	2,403	2,030	(1)	+23	+18
Commercial	269	296	192	3,039	2,212	- 9	+40	+37
Office buildings and warehouses	107	110	87	1,131	958	- 3	+23	+18
Stores, restaurants, and garages	162	186	105	1,908	1,254	-13	+54	+52
Other nonresidential building	188	196	176	2,182	2,008	- 4	+ 7	+ 9
Religious	63	67	57	736	593	- 6	+11	+24
Educational	43	45	45	499	529	- 4	- 4	- 6
Hospital and institutional	27	29	29	351	337	- 7	- 7	+ 4
Social and recreational	20	21	19	239	228	- 5	+ 5	+ 5
Miscellaneous	35	34	26	357	321	+ 3	+35	+11
Farm construction	83	94	93	1,400	1,560	-12	-11	-10
Public utility	351	388	348	4,465	4,341	-10	+ 1	+ 3
Railroad	29	30	28	340	353	- 3	+ 4	- 4
Telephone and telegraph	55	60	51	700	655	- 8	+ 8	+ 7
Other public utility	267	298	269	3,425	3,333	-10	- 1	+ 3
All other private	10	11	12	161	121	- 9	-17	+33
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	**767**	**985**	**829**	**12,000**	**11,809**	**-22**	**- 7**	**+ 2**
Residential building	20	21	22	261	336	- 5	- 9	-22
Nonresidential building	287	318	351	4,225	4,641	-10	-18	- 9
Industrial	31	35	102	720	1,506	-11	-70	-52
Educational	186	200	181	2,442	2,134	- 7	+ 3	+14
Hospital and institutional	20	25	25	329	365	-20	-20	-10
Other nonresidential building	50	58	43	734	636	-14	+16	+15
Military facilities	106	115	88	1,300	1,030	- 8	+20	+26
Highway	200	355	214	4,100	3,750	-44	- 7	+ 9
Sewer and water	80	89	77	1,085	982	-10	+ 4	+10
Public service enterprises	21	25	15	279	218	-16	+40	+28
Conservation and development	43	49	52	595	704	-12	-17	-15
All other public	10	13	10	155	148	-23	0	+ 5

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. Figures for 1955 months not shown are available upon request.

*Data in tables 1 through 5 include revisions from January 1955.

[1] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 2.--New Construction Put in Place: Recent Monthly Trend, by Type of Construction*

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	1954	1955											
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	**3,092**	**2,815**	**2,698**	**2,989**	**3,283**	**3,606**	**3,881**	**4,044**	**4,101**	**4,086**	**3,953**	**3,617**	**3,177**
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	**2,263**	**2,073**	**2,002**	**2,193**	**2,367**	**2,547**	**2,730**	**2,829**	**2,858**	**2,844**	**2,765**	**2,632**	**2,410**
Residential building (nonfarm)	1,258	1,122	1,049	1,185	1,319	1,430	1,544	1,590	1,587	1,561	1,508	1,422	1,283
New dwelling units	1,150	1,030	960	1,085	1,190	1,270	1,380	1,430	1,435	1,410	1,360	1,280	1,160
Additions and alterations	86	71	68	79	106	133	133	127	119	119	116	110	92
Nonhousekeeping	22	21	21	21	23	27	31	33	33	32	32	32	31
Nonresidential building	552	543	548	558	563	592	633	668	686	714	719	717	683
Industrial	184	186	187	186	184	184	190	199	205	213	218	225	226
Commercial	192	189	198	207	214	236	259	277	286	303	305	296	269
Office buildings and warehouses	87	84	83	82	85	89	90	95	99	102	105	110	107
Stores, restaurants, and garages	105	105	115	125	129	147	169	182	187	201	200	186	162
Other nonresidential bldg.	176	168	163	165	165	172	184	192	195	198	196	196	188
Religious	57	55	53	53	54	58	62	66	68	69	68	67	63
Educational	45	42	39	41	40	36	39	41	43	45	45	45	43
Hospital & institutional	29	28	28	28	28	30	30	31	31	31	30	29	27
Social and recreational	19	18	17	16	17	19	22	23	23	22	21	21	20
Miscellaneous	26	25	26	27	26	29	31	31	30	31	32	34	35
Farm construction	93	92	95	103	114	131	141	148	150	137	112	94	83
Public utility	348	302	297	333	357	378	396	407	421	420	415	388	351
Railroad	28	20	19	25	28	29	30	31	33	34	32	30	29
Telephone and telegraph	51	50	50	55	55	60	60	65	65	65	60	60	55
Other public utility	269	232	228	253	274	289	306	311	323	321	323	298	267
All other private	12	14	13	14	14	16	16	16	14	12	11	11	10
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	**829**	**742**	**696**	**796**	**916**	**1,059**	**1,151**	**1,215**	**1,243**	**1,242**	**1,188**	**985**	**767**
Residential building	22	22	21	23	22	22	23	21	22	22	22	21	20
Nonresidential building	351	342	320	349	361	374	382	387	380	372	353	318	287
Industrial	102	90	76	77	71	71	68	64	51	43	43	35	31
Educational	181	182	178	190	202	211	217	220	223	221	212	200	186
Hospital and institutional	25	25	22	27	28	28	30	32	32	32	28	25	20
Other nonresidential bldg.	43	45	44	55	60	64	67	71	74	76	70	58	50
Military facilities	88	78	77	82	98	106	120	122	129	133	134	115	106
Highway	214	155	150	190	270	375	430	480	500	510	485	355	200
Sewer and water	77	76	70	81	88	96	99	104	105	100	97	89	80
Public service enterprises	15	13	11	14	16	20	27	31	36	35	30	25	21
Conservation and development	52	45	38	45	48	53	56	56	56	54	52	49	43
All other public	10	11	9	12	13	13	14	14	15	16	15	13	10

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. *Includes revisions for 1955 months; see footnote to table 1.

COMPOSITION OF REGIONS AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

NORTHEAST

1. *New England*
   Connecticut
   Maine
   Massachusetts
   New Hampshire
   Rhode Island
   Vermont
2. *Middle Atlantic*
   New Jersey
   New York
   Pennsylvania

NORTH CENTRAL

3. *E. N. Central*
   Illinois
   Indiana
   Michigan
   Ohio
   Wisconsin
4. *W. N. Central*
   Iowa
   Kansas
   Minnesota
   Missouri
   Nebraska
   North Dakota
   South Dakota

SOUTH

5. *S. Atlantic*
   Delaware
   Dist. of Col.
   Florida
   Georgia
   Maryland
   N. Carolina
   S. Carolina
   Virginia
   W. Virginia
6. *E. S. Central*
   Alabama
   Kentucky
   Mississippi
   Tennessee
7. *W. S. Central*
   Arkansas
   Louisiana
   Oklahoma
   Texas

WEST

8. *Mountain*
   Arizona
   Colorado
   Idaho
   Montana
   Nevada
   New Mexico
   Utah
   Wyoming
9. *Pacific*
   California
   Oregon
   Washington

NONFARM POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN 1950

NORTHEAST—29.5 percent. *NORTH CENTRAL*—29.0 percent. *SOUTH*—27.7 percent. *WEST*—13.8 percent.

Chart I.

New Construction Put in Place

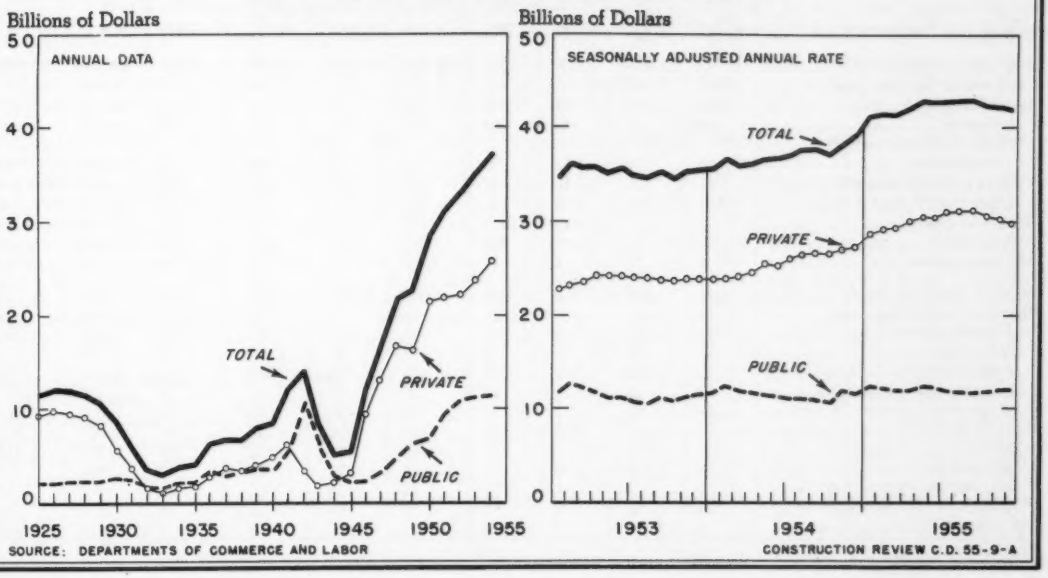


Table 3.--New Construction Put in Place: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate, by Type of Construction*

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	Seasonally adjusted annual rate									Annual total	
	1954	1955									
	Dec.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954	1955
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	**41,148**	**42,972**	**42,780**	**42,792**	**42,816**	**42,876**	**42,312**	**42,216**	**41,868**	**37,577**	**42,250**
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	**28,200**	**30,672**	**30,540**	**30,936**	**31,092**	**31,188**	**30,612**	**30,204**	**29,832**	**25,768**	**30,250**
Residential building (nonfarm)	15,684	17,028	17,040	17,220	17,196	17,064	16,488	16,140	15,912	13,496	16,600
Nonresidential building	6,468	7,548	7,452	7,692	7,896	8,148	8,196	8,160	8,028	6,250	7,624
Industrial	2,160	2,304	2,376	2,460	2,484	2,508	2,544	2,616	2,668	2,030	2,403
Commercial	2,208	3,000	2,940	3,036	3,264	3,480	3,492	3,264	3,132	2,192	3,039
Office bldgs. & warehouses	960	1,164	1,152	1,152	1,152	1,188	1,212	1,224	1,188	958	1,131
Stores, restaurants, and garages	1,248	1,836	1,788	1,884	2,112	2,292	2,280	2,040	1,944	1,254	1,908
Other nonresidential building	2,100	2,244	2,136	2,196	2,148	2,160	2,160	2,280	2,232	2,008	2,182
Farm construction	1,488	1,428	1,404	1,392	1,380	1,368	1,344	1,332	1,320	1,560	1,400
Public utility	4,392	4,488	4,488	4,476	4,476	4,464	4,452	4,440	4,428	4,341	4,465
All other private	168	180	156	156	144	144	132	132	144	121	161
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	**12,948**	**12,300**	**12,240**	**11,856**	**11,724**	**11,688**	**11,700**	**12,012**	**12,036**	**11,809**	**12,000**
Residential building	264	264	264	240	240	240	252	252	240	336	261
Nonresidential building	4,716	4,344	4,356	4,128	4,020	4,056	3,948	4,008	3,864	4,641	4,225
Military facilities	1,164	1,320	1,416	1,356	1,320	1,344	1,404	1,332	1,416	1,030	1,300
Highway	4,716	4,224	4,068	4,056	4,008	3,924	3,984	4,284	4,404	3,750	4,100
Sewer and water	1,032	1,116	1,092	1,044	1,068	1,068	1,068	1,104	1,068	982	1,085
Public service enterprises	240	228	264	288	336	360	348	348	348	218	279
Conservation and development	660	660	636	600	576	528	516	516	540	704	595
All other public	156	144	144	144	156	168	180	168	156	148	155

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. *Includes revisions for 1955 months; see footnote to table 1.

Table 4.--New Construction Put in Place: Value in 1947-49 Prices, by Type of Construction*

(Millions of dollars)

Type of construction	1954	1955							Year	
	Nov.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	1953	1954
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	**2,717**	**2,915**	**3,127**	**3,231**	**3,270**	**3,251**	**3,137**	**2,852**	**28,931**	**30,912**
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	**1,903**	**2,023**	**2,159**	**2,221**	**2,237**	**2,220**	**2,153**	**2,045**	**19,433**	**20,934**
Residential building (nonfarm)	1,069	1,160	1,243	1,276	1,271	1,247	1,202	1,131	9,840	11,214
Nonresidential building	455	471	501	523	536	556	559	555	4,655	5,073
Industrial	149	151	155	160	165	170	174	179	1,807	1,690
Office buildings and warehouses	73	71	71	75	78	80	82	86	640	789
Stores, restaurants, and garages	89	115	132	140	143	154	153	141	857	998
Other nonresidential bldgs.	144	134	143	148	150	152	150	149	1,351	1,596
Farm construction	90	111	119	123	125	114	92	78	1,484	1,341
Public utility	280	270	285	288	295	295	292	273	3,362	3,216
All other private	9	11	11	11	10	8	8	8	92	90
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	**814**	**892**	**968**	**1,010**	**1,033**	**1,031**	**984**	**807**	**9,498**	**9,978**
Residential building	18	18	19	17	18	18	18	17	459	281
Nonresidential building	293	295	299	300	294	286	270	243	3,531	3,743
Industrial	87	58	55	51	41	34	34	28	1,434	1,253
Educational	145	165	169	169	171	169	162	152	1,397	1,696
Hospital and institutional	22	22	23	25	25	25	21	19	297	289
Other nonresidential building	39	50	52	55	57	58	53	44	403	505
Military facilities	80	88	100	100	105	108	109	93	1,105	872
Highway	302	361	411	450	468	476	453	332	2,851	3,573
Sewer and water	60	69	70	73	74	70	68	62	681	724
Public service enterprises	11	14	19	21	24	24	20	17	146	156
Conservation and development	42	38	40	39	39	38	36	34	639	520
All other public	8	9	10	10	11	11	10	9	86	109

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. *Includes revisions for 1955 months; see footnote to table 1.

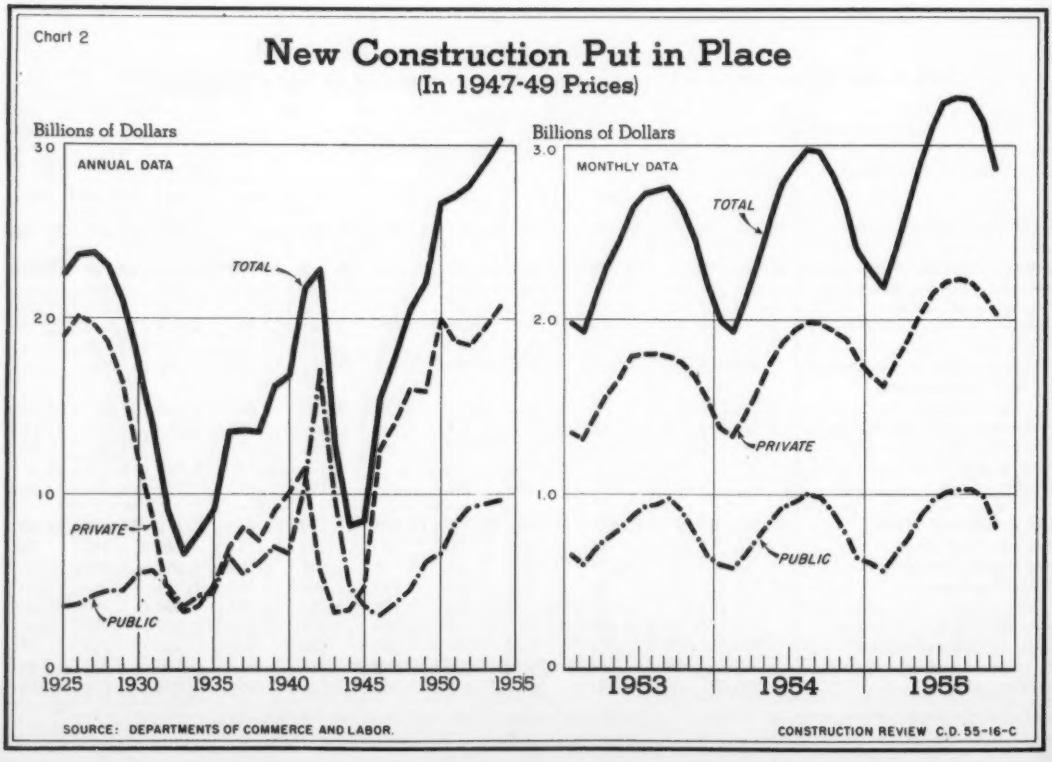


Table 5.--New Public Construction Put in Place, by Source of Funds, Ownership, and Type of Construction*

Source of funds, ownership, and type of construction	Value *(in millions of dollars)*											
	1954	1955									Annual total	
	Dec.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954	1955
TOTAL PUBLIC	**829**	**916**	**1,059**	**1,151**	**1,215**	**1,243**	**1,242**	**1,188**	**985**	**767**	**11,809**	**12,000**
Federal funds	290	281	311	335	341	348	337	335	279	225	4,154	3,523
Direct Federal	249	226	242	258	257	254	249	250	212	189	3,445	2,766
Federal grants-in-aid[1]	41	55	69	77	84	94	88	85	67	36	709	757
State and local funds	539	635	748	816	874	895	905	853	706	542	7,655	8,477
FEDERALLY OWNED	**249**	**226**	**242**	**258**	**257**	**254**	**249**	**250**	**212**	**189**	**3,445**	**2,766**
Residential building	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	1
Nonresidential building	106	75	77	75	71	59	54	57	42	36	1,641	800
Industrial	102	71	71	68	64	51	43	43	35	31	1,506	720
Educational	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	9	6
Hospital	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	35	20
Other nonresidential	2	2	4	4	5	6	8	10	5	3	91	54
Military facilities	88	98	106	120	122	129	133	134	115	106	1,030	1,300
Highway	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	6	5	4	55	60
Conservation & development	52	48	53	56	56	56	54	52	49	43	704	595
All other Federal	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	10	10
STATE & LOCALLY OWNED	**580**	**690**	**817**	**893**	**958**	**989**	**993**	**938**	**773**	**578**	**8,364**	**9,234**
Residential building	22	22	22	23	21	21	22	22	21	20	331	260
Nonresidential building	245	286	297	307	316	321	318	296	276	251	3,000	3,425
Educational	181	202	210	215	220	223	220	210	200	186	2,125	2,436
Hospital	23	26	27	29	30	30	30	26	23	18	330	309
Other nonresidential	41	58	60	63	66	68	68	60	53	47	545	680
Highway	211	266	370	424	473	492	503	479	350	196	3,695	4,040
Sewer and water	77	88	96	99	104	105	100	97	89	80	982	1,085
All other State and local	25	28	32	40	44	50	50	44	37	51	356	424

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. *Includes revisions for 1955 months; see footnote to table 1. [1] Construction programs currently receiving Federal grants-in-aid cover highways, schools, hospitals, airports, and miscellaneous community facilities.

Table 6.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Ownership, Location, and Type of Structure

Period	Total	Ownership		Location [1]		Type of structure			
		Private	Public	Metropolitan	Nonmetropolitan	1-family houses	Units in 2-or-more family structures: All	2-4 family	5-or-more family
	NUMBER OF NEW DWELLING UNITS *(in thousands)*								
Year: 1946	670.5	662.5	8.0	(2)	(2)	590.0	80.5	(3)	(3)
1947	849.0	845.6	3.4	(2)	(2)	740.2	108.8	(3)	(3)
1948	931.6	913.5	18.1	(2)	(2)	766.6	165.0	(3)	(3)
1949	1,025.1	988.8	36.3	(2)	(2)	794.3	230.8	(3)	(3)
1950	1,396.0	1,352.2	43.8	1,021.6	374.4	1,154.1	241.9	(3)	(3)
1951	1,091.3	1,020.1	71.2	776.8	314.5	900.1	191.2	(3)	(3)
1952	1,127.0	1,068.5	58.5	794.9	332.1	942.5	184.5	(3)	(3)
1953	1,103.8	1,068.3	35.5	803.5	300.3	937.8	166.0	(3)	(3)
1954	1,220.4	1,201.7	18.7	896.9	323.5	1,077.9	142.5	51.9	90.6
First 11 months, 1954	1,129.8	1,111.8	18.0	827.2	302.6	998.4	131.4	46.9	84.5
First 11 months, 1955	1,253.0	1,236.7	16.3	919.6	333.4	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
1954: November	103.6	103.3	.3	75.7	27.9	92.8	10.8	4.5	6.3
December	90.6	89.9	.7	69.7	20.9	79.5	11.1	5.0	6.1
1955: January	87.6	87.3	.3	68.1	19.5	78.3	9.3	3.6	5.7
February	89.9	87.9	2.0	66.9	23.0	78.9	11.0	3.9	7.1
March	113.8	112.8	1.0	86.8	27.0	100.1	13.7	5.0	8.7
April	132.0	130.5	1.5	96.8	35.2	119.9	12.1	4.7	7.4
May	137.6	135.1	2.5	99.7	37.9	122.2	15.4	5.1	10.3
June	134.8	131.4	3.4	98.9	35.9	121.5	13.3	4.4	8.9
July	122.6	121.9	.7	88.3	34.3	113.5	9.1	3.9	5.2
August	124.7	122.3	2.4	91.5	33.2	111.6	13.1	3.8	9.3
September	113.0	111.7	1.3	80.9	32.1	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
October	107.0	106.6	.4	77.2	29.8	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
November	90.0	89.2	.8	64.5	25.5	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
	Percent change								
First 11 months, 1954-55	+10.9	+11.2	-9.4	+11.2	+10.2	--	--	--	--
October-November, 1955	-15.9	-16.3	+100.0	-16.5	-14.4	--	--	--	--
November 1954-55	-13.1	-13.6	+166.7	-14.8	-8.6	--	--	--	--
	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION								
Year: 1946	100	98.8	1.2	--	--	88.0	12.0	--	--
1947	100	99.6	.4	--	--	87.2	12.8	--	--
1948	100	98.1	1.9	--	--	82.3	17.7	--	--
1949	100	96.5	3.5	--	--	77.5	22.5	--	--
1950	100	96.9	3.1	73.2	26.8	82.7	17.3	--	--
1951	100	93.5	6.5	71.2	28.8	82.5	17.5	--	--
1952	100	94.8	5.2	70.5	29.5	83.6	16.4	--	--
1953	100	96.8	3.2	72.8	27.2	85.0	15.0	--	--
1954	100	98.5	1.5	73.5	26.5	88.3	11.7	4.3	7.4
First 11 months, 1954	100	98.4	1.6	73.2	26.8	88.4	11.6	4.2	7.4
First 11 months, 1955	100	98.7	1.3	73.4	26.6	--	--	--	--
1954: November	100	99.7	.3	73.1	26.9	89.6	10.4	4.3	6.1
December	100	99.2	.8	76.9	23.1	87.7	12.3	5.5	6.8
1955: January	100	99.7	.3	77.7	22.3	89.4	10.6	4.1	6.5
February	100	97.8	2.2	74.4	25.6	87.8	12.2	4.3	7.9
March	100	99.1	.9	76.3	23.7	88.0	12.0	4.4	7.6
April	100	98.9	1.1	73.3	26.7	90.8	9.2	3.6	5.6
May	100	98.2	1.8	72.5	27.5	88.8	11.2	3.7	7.5
June	100	97.5	2.5	73.4	26.6	90.1	9.9	3.3	6.6
July	100	99.4	.6	72.0	28.0	92.6	7.4	3.2	4.2
August	100	98.1	1.9	73.4	26.6	89.5	10.5	3.0	7.5
September	100	98.8	1.2	71.6	28.4	--	--	--	--
October	100	99.6	.4	72.1	27.9	--	--	--	--
November	100	99.1	.9	71.7	28.3	--	--	--	--

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Data by urban and rural-nonfarm classification for 1920-53 are available upon request. [2] Annual data not available before 1950; monthly data not available before January 1953. [3] Not available before January 1954. Tabulations showing the number of units in 2-family and 3-or-more family structures for 1920-53 are available upon request. [4] Not yet available.

Table 7.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

Year	Number of new dwelling units *(in thousands)*											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1946.....	598	661	752	693	677	655	645	663	634	658	643	646
1947.....	619	667	679	694	735	803	854	923	1,029	1,089	1,064	962
1948.....	851	762	925	1,015	1,000	1,008	986	912	886	838	827	812
1949.....	751	745	792	879	920	950	976	1,035	1,108	1,187	1,259	1,266
1950.....	1,262	1,283	1,406	1,358	1,469	1,496	1,471	1,476	1,278	1,174	1,115	1,292
1951.....	1,333	1,192	1,093	955	984	942	914	946	1,049	1,036	973	978
1952.....	996	1,158	1,104	1,003	1,018	1,011	1,064	1,044	1,092	1,156	1,110	1,111
1953.....	1,106	1,150	1,165	1,111	1,065	1,064	1,015	988	1,014	1,050	1,077	1.060
1954.....	1,056	1,152	1,130	1,102	1,083	1,175	1,188	1,211	1,248	1,287	1,393	1,478
1955.....	1,416	1,370	1,367	1,350	1,362	1,371	1,283	1,310	1,230	1,242	1,203	

Source: Department of Labor.

Chart 3

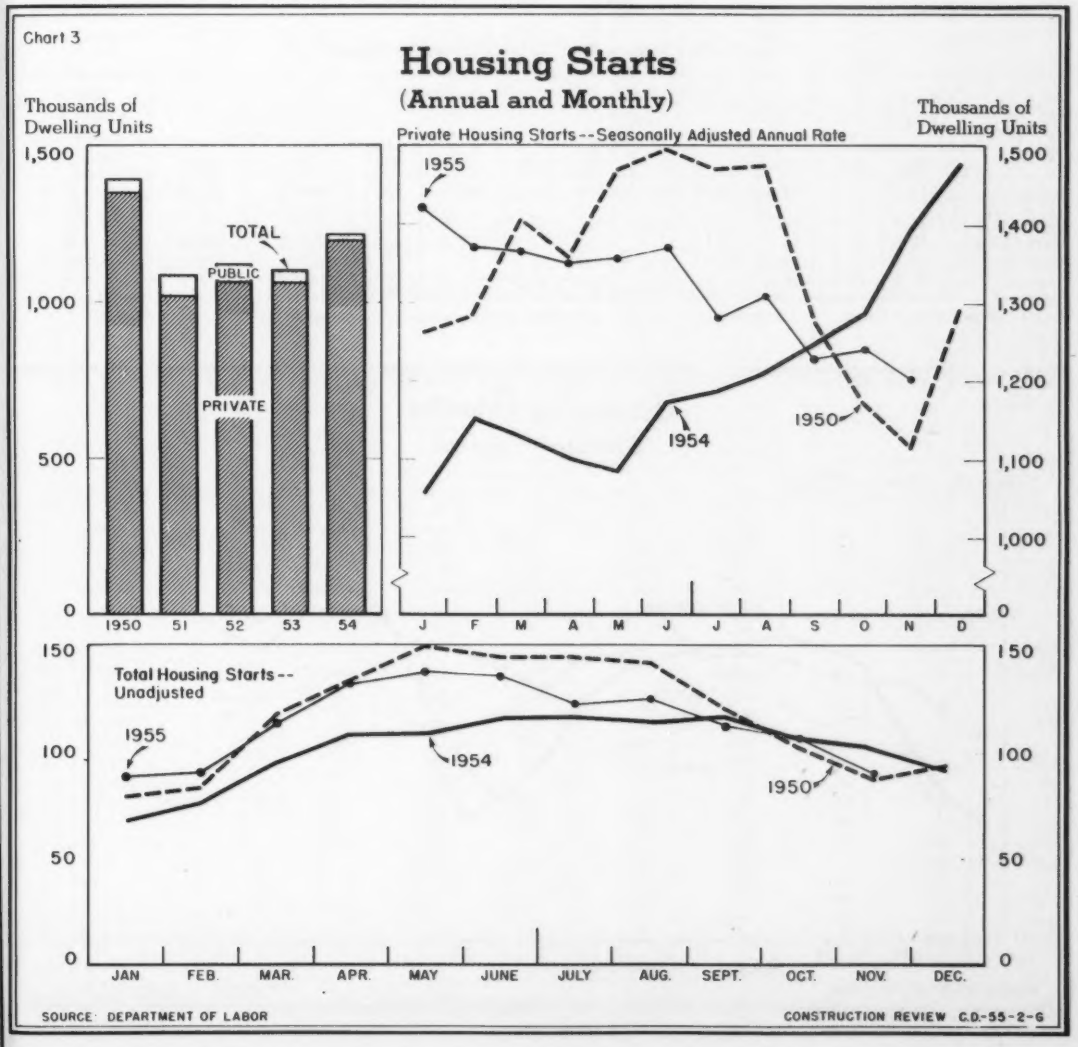


Table 8.--New Private 1-Family Houses Started: Average Construction Cost

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	AVERAGE CONSTRUCTION COST												
1946	$5,250	$5,400	$5,850	$5,575	$5,475	$5,425	$5,375	$5,450	$5,450	$5,625	$5,675	$5,575	$5,525
1947	5,700	5,825	6,150	6,275	6,250	6,450	6,725	6,950	7,025	7,275	7,525	7,650	6,750
1948	7,250	7,450	7,550	7,775	7,950	8,050	8,050	8,100	7,900	7,825	7,900	7,900	7,850
1949	7,650	7,525	7,450	7,500	7,650	7,675	7,525	7,650	7,725	7,675	7,675	7,625	7,625
1950	7,625	7,850	8,225	8,450	8,450	8,750	8,875	9,125	8,900	9,200	9,075	9,200	8,675
1951	9,100	9,250	9,175	9,325	9,475	9,475	9,400	9,300	9,450	9,225	9,250	9,125	9,300
1952	9,050	9,275	9,350	9,550	9,575	9,675	9,500	9,425	9,600	9,525	9,550	9,525	9,475
1953	9,400	9,600	9,800	10,000	9,900	10,000	10,125	10,175	10,200	10,175	9,975	10,000	9,950
1954	9,750	9,800	10,075	10,600	10,850	10,750	10,850	10,750	10,675	10,800	10,850	11,075	10,625
1955	10,575	11,125	11,250	11,250	11,400	11,400	11,475	11,425	(1)	(1)	(1)		
	Percent change, 1954 to 1955												
	+8.5	+13.5	+11.7	+6.1	+5.1	+6.0	+5.8	+6.3	--	--	--		

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Not yet available.

Table 9.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Region [1]

Region	Number of new dwelling units *(in thousands)*											Percent change, first 8 mos. 1954-55
	1954	1955								First 8 months		
	Aug.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	1954	1955	
TOTAL	114.3	87.6	89.9	113.8	132.0	137.6	134.8	122.6	124.7	799.8	943.0	+17.9
Northeast	24.8	16.0	13.5	23.6	28.6	30.3	30.8	27.0	24.9	164.8	194.7	+18.1
North Central	32.6	15.6	19.7	28.1	37.3	40.0	39.3	35.6	38.0	217.0	253.6	+16.9
South	31.7	30.6	32.4	32.9	35.7	37.4	36.5	32.7	34.8	232.4	273.0	+17.5
West	25.2	25.4	24.3	29.2	30.4	29.9	28.2	27.3	27.0	185.6	221.7	+19.5

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2.

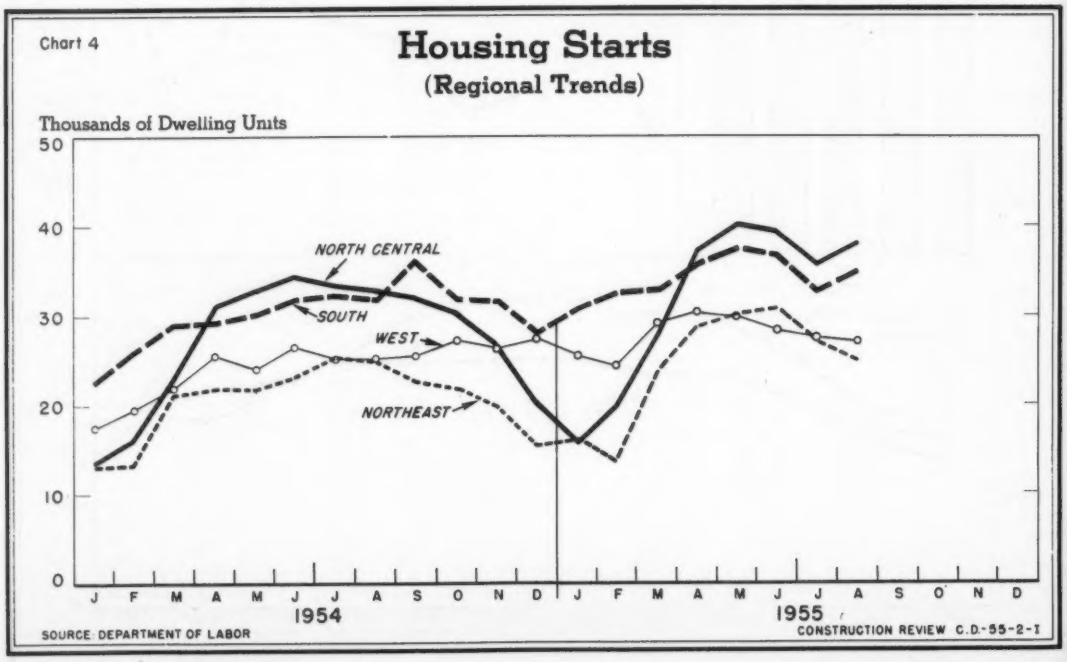


Table 10.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units: Mortgages Applied for, Appraisals requested, and Units Started Under FHA and VA Programs

Period	FHA-assisted units		VA-assisted units		Nonfarm dwelling units started		
	In applications	Started *(in thousands)*	In appraisal requests	Started *(in thousands)*	U. S. total	FHA-assisted	VA-assisted
	NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS				PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
Year: 1950	627,927	486.7	(1)	200.0	100	36	15
1951	268,740	263.5	164,365	148.6	100	26	15
1952	323,923	280.0	226,299	141.3	100	26	13
1953	327,323	252.0	251,437	156.6	100	24	15
1954	383,334	276.3	535,412	307.0	100	23	26
First 11 mos., 1954	358,740	254.8	491,161	277.9	100	23	25
First 11 mos., 1955	301,205	261.0	595,884	370.2	100	21	30
1954: November	28,735	26.3	47,729	36.0	100	25	35
December	24,594	21.5	44,251	29.1	100	24	32
1955: January	26,367	20.0	46,204	26.1	100	23	30
February	28,548	17.2	64,192	28.0	100	20	32
March	36,622	23.8	71,939	29.9	100	21	27
April	33,412	25.8	65,856	34.5	100	20	26
May	31,111	28.0	69,280	37.8	100	21	28
June	32,521	32.1	52,424	39.5	100	24	30
July	25,033	26.0	51,412	37.4	100	21	31
August	27,294	26.9	55,974	40.8	100	22	33
September	23,840	24.7	45,063	33.3	100	22	30
October	19,836	18.8	43,143	34.8	100	18	33
November	16,921	17.9	30,397	28.1	100	20	32
	Percent change						
First 11 mos., 1954-55	-16	+2	+21	+33			

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Federal Housing Administration (HHFA) and the Veterans Administration. [1] Not available.

Table 11.--Nonfarm Mortgage Recordings of $20,000 or Less: Number and Average Amount, and Total Amount by Type of Lender

Period	Total number *(in thousands)*	Average amount *(dollars)*	Total amount *(in millions of dollars)* recorded by--						
			All lenders	Savings and loan associations	Insurance companies	Commercial banks	Mutual savings banks	Individuals	All other lenders
Year: 1950	3,032	5,535	16,179	5,060	1,618	3,365	1,064	2,299	2,774
1951	2,878	5,701	16,405	5,295	1,615	3,370	1,013	2,539	2,572
1952	3,028	5,950	18,018	6,452	1,420	3,600	1,137	2,758	2,651
1953	3,164	6,241	19,747	7,365	1,480	3,680	1,327	2,841	3,055
1954	3,458	6,644	22,974	8,312	1,768	4,239	1,501	2,882	4,272
First 10 mos., 1954	2,833	6,550	18,559	6,771	1,399	3,420	1,196	2,383	3,390
First 10 mos., 1955	3,306	7,253	23,980	8,986	1,624	4,660	1,521	2,809	4,380
1954: October	314	6,874	2,156	765	178	393	140	248	431
November	307	7,004	2,148	757	177	399	147	246	420
December	318	7,131	2,267	784	191	420	158	252	462
1955: January	284	7,120	2,024	688	165	379	128	246	419
February	277	7,077	1,958	702	151	365	116	228	396
March	343	7,153	2,455	928	174	458	134	303	459
April	328	7,182	2,357	900	165	456	136	276	424
May	344	7,215	2,483	950	163	482	153	286	449
June	360	7,312	2,636	1,024	174	516	171	301	449
July	335	7,348	2,463	953	161	472	168	283	425
August	366	7,362	2,697	1,060	163	541	179	310	463
September	342	7,377	2,522	946	155	505	168	292	456
October	326	7,320	2,387	835	153	505	167	285	441
	Percent change								
First 10 mos., 1954-55	+17	+11	+29	+33	+16	+36	+27	+18	+29

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Home Loan Bank Board (HHFA).

Part III--Building Permits

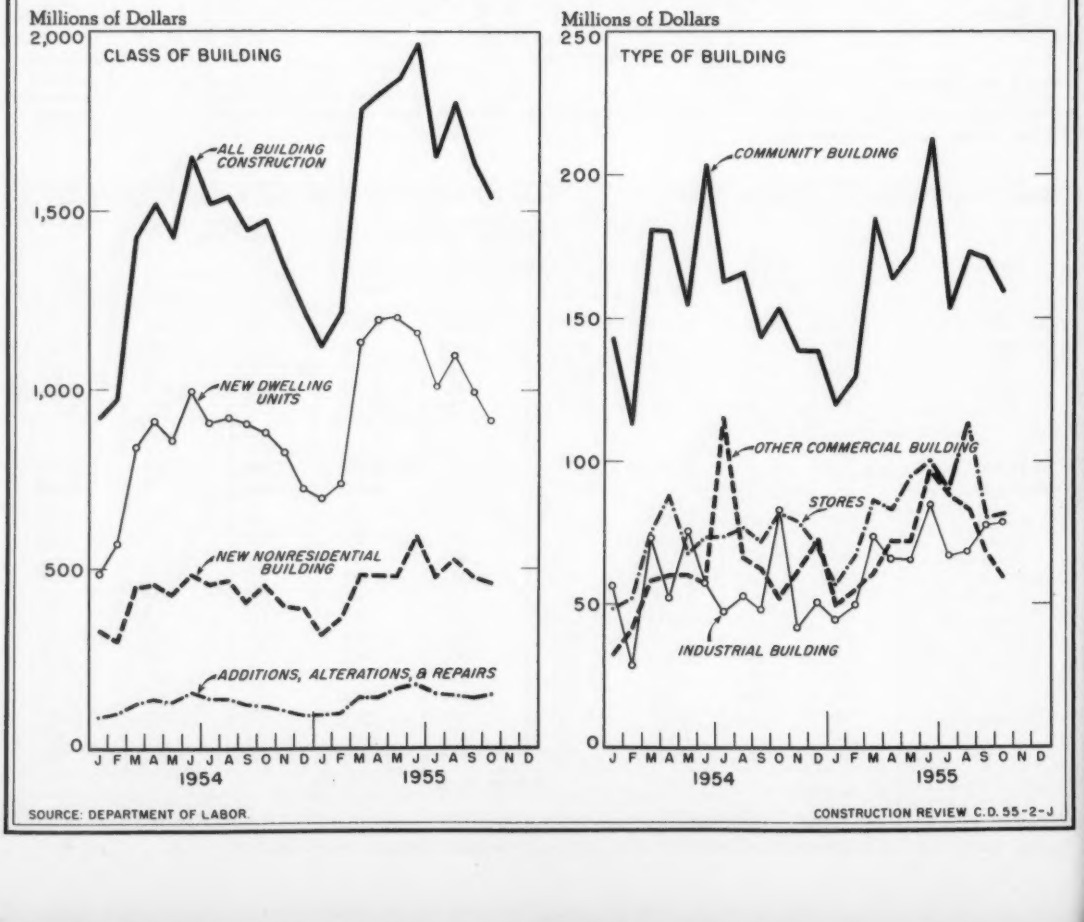
Table 12.--Building Permit Activity: Current Summary, by Type of Building

Type of building	Valuation *(in millions of dollars)*						Percent change, Nov. 1954-55
	1955			1954	First 11 months		
	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Nov.	1955	1954	
All building construction [1]	**1,317.6**	**1,540.4**	**1,632.6**	**1,345.2**	**17,782.2**	**15,249.6**	**- 2**
Private	**1,201.3**	**1,410.5**	**1,514.6**	**1,225.9**	**16,266.1**	**13,706.6**	**- 2**
Public	**116.3**	**129.9**	**118.1**	**119.3**	**1,516.1**	**1,543.0**	**- 3**
New dwelling units [2]	722.0	915.8	999.3	830.1	10,921.9	9,126.1	-13
Number of new dwelling units	*(69,505)*	*(89,428)*	*(96,328)*	*(88,008)*	*(1,088,339)*	*(997,081)*	*(-21)*
New nonresidential building	464.8	462.2	477.7	398.3	5,158.4	4,624.9	+17
Commercial buildings	154.9	141.2	149.4	141.2	1,712.4	1,448.1	+10
Stores and other mercantile buildings	70.6	82.0	81.2	79.4	928.1	789.1	-11
All other commercial buildings	84.3	59.2	68.2	61.8	784.3	659.0	+36
Community buildings	158.5	159.7	171.3	139.0	1,804.3	1,729.4	+14
Industrial buildings	92.0	79.7	77.7	42.1	768.8	611.5	+119
All other nonresidential buildings	59.4	81.5	79.3	76.1	872.9	836.0	-22
Additions, alterations, and repairs	117.4	150.2	144.7	108.7	1,551.2	1,375.5	+ 8

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. [2] Housekeeping only.

Chart 5

Building Permit Activity



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D. 55-2-J

Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Class of Construction, Type of Building, and Region [1]

Class of construction and type of building	Valuation *(in millions of dollars)*						Percent change, 1st 10 months 1954-55
	1954	1955			First 10 months		
	Oct.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	1954	1955	
	UNITED STATES						
All building construction [2]	1,482.0	1,793.7	1,632.6	1,540.4	13,904.4	16,464.6	+18
New dwelling units [3]	890.2	1,101.1	999.3	915.8	8,296.0	10,199.9	+23
New nonresidential building	458,6	526.0	477.7	462.2	4,226.6	4,693.6	+11
Commercial buildings	134.6	195.4	149.4	141.2	1,306.9	1,557.5	+19
Amusement buildings	8.3	7.5	6.7	6.4	85.6	88.0	+ 3
Commercial garages	7.8	8.5	5.7	8.1	52.5	59.4	+13
Gasoline and service stations	10.6	14.5	12.7	12.3	100.2	120.6	+20
Office buildings	25.8	52.1	43.1	32.5	359.0	432.1	+20
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	82.1	112.8	81.2	82.0	709.7	857.5	+21
Community buildings	153.8	172.9	171.3	159.7	1,590.4	1,645.8	+ 3
Educational buildings	96.7	106.1	108.7	90.5	993.5	1,030.4	+ 4
Institutional buildings	18.7	26.3	30.2	39.4	287.5	277.3	- 4
Religious buildings	38.4	40.6	32.3	29.8	309.5	338.1	+ 9
Garages, private residential	17.6	20.9	23.7	20.0	146.6	168.8	+15
Industrial buildings	83.0	88.4	77.7	79.7	569.4	676.8	+19
Public buildings	30.1	29.7	13.6	19.7	261.7	255.1	- 3
Public utilities buildings	20.8	23.4	24.7	20.6	176.7	225.8	+28
All other nonresidential buildings	19.1	15.2	17.3	21.2	174.9	163.8	- 6
Additions, alterations, and repairs	120.8	149.4	144.7	150.2	1,266.8	1,433.8	+13
	Northeast						
All building construction [2]	308.4	337.7	356.5	331.3	3,119.6	3,542.2	+14
New dwelling units [3]	184.0	221.5	210.7	206.4	1,850.8	2,202.6	+19
New nonresidential building	97.2	82.6	112.3	86.3	959.4	997.3	+ 4
Commercial buildings	27.3	30.1	33.3	29.0	290.6	320.6	+10
Amusement buildings	2.2	.4	1.1	1.2	19.0	13.9	-27
Commercial garages	1.9	1.2	1.1	.7	16.2	14.0	-14
Gasoline and service stations	1.5	2.0	1.9	2.2	17.3	19.7	+14
Office buildings	6.5	9.7	7.1	8.3	99.5	113.7	+14
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	15.2	16.6	22.0	16.6	138.7	159.3	+15
Community buildings	41.1	28.3	45.4	24.3	369.8	371.8	+ 1
Educational buildings	22.3	16.7	21.9	16.3	232.8	242.4	+ 4
Institutional buildings	11.6	2.8	14.2	2.3	74.0	53.0	-28
Religious buildings	7.1	8.7	9.2	5.7	63.0	76.4	+21
Garages, private residential	4.3	4.1	5.2	4.0	33.5	35.6	+ 6
Industrial buildings	13.1	12.9	13.9	20.8	135.8	159.6	+18
Public buildings	3.4	1.8	3.2	2.3	71.7	25.9	-64
Public utilities buildings	4.7	3.0	6.3	2.5	26.9	44.2	+64
All other nonresidential buildings	3.3	2.5	5.0	3.5	31.1	39.6	+27
Additions, alterations, and repairs	26.0	30.1	32.6	36.6	292.9	316.5	+ 8
	North Central						
All building construction [2]	436.2	607.2	559.4	493.9	4,124.5	5,033.0	+22
New dwelling units [3]	268.1	376.0	349.0	281.8	2,486.9	3,123.6	+26
New nonresidential building	127.7	186.9	164.7	167.8	1,256.8	1,491.4	+19
Commercial buildings	38.6	65.1	35.9	44.4	370.6	430.8	+16
Amusement buildings	2.3	1.8	1.2	2.2	25.9	28.6	+10
Commercial garages	3.1	5.0	1.3	5.8	19.9	21.9	+10
Gasoline and service stations	3.9	4.7	4.3	3.6	32.8	38.0	+16
Office buildings	7.0	15.3	12.2	10.1	88.3	104.5	+18
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	22.3	38.3	16.9	22.8	203.8	237.9	+17
Community buildings	42.2	65.5	62.8	61.6	449.2	543.6	+21
Educational buildings	27.1	40.2	42.0	26.1	278.9	326.5	+17
Institutional buildings	3.9	11.8	8.1	25.2	75.5	108.3	+43
Religious buildings	11.2	13.5	12.7	10.4	94.8	108.9	+15
Garages, private residential	8.9	12.1	13.5	11.2	73.3	89.6	+22
Industrial buildings	21.6	29.2	37.0	34.6	181.2	256.8	+42
Public buildings	6.9	4.5	5.3	5.3	54.8	67.9	+24
Public utilities buildings	6.3	7.3	7.1	7.7	83.0	79.5	- 4
All other nonresidential buildings	3.1	3.2	3.1	2.9	44.8	22.9	-49
Additions, alterations, and repairs	37.8	41.3	41.9	42.3	352.2	395.7	+12

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Class of Construction, Type of Building, and Region [1]--Continued

Class of construction and type of building	Valuation (*in millions of dollars*)						Percent change, 1st 10 months 1954-55
	1954	1955			First 10 months		
	Oct.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	1954	1955	
	South						
All building construction [2]	385.6	422.2	367.6	363.0	3,477.4	4,048.0	+16
New dwelling units [3]	209.9	239.5	212.9	202.7	1,948.7	2,362.3	+21
New nonresidential building	144.1	132.7	114.8	116.0	1,158.3	1,240.4	+ 7
Commercial buildings	41.1	54.5	44.0	35.2	389.5	460.4	+18
Amusement buildings	1.4	3.2	1.6	1.9	23.0	28.9	+26
Commercial garages	1.6	1.8	2.7	.9	10.0	17.6	+76
Gasoline and service stations	3.1	4.9	4.2	4.1	30.3	39.3	+30
Office buildings	5.7	10.9	12.6	6.2	98.8	119.1	+21
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	29.2	33.9	22.8	22.2	227.4	255.6	+12
Community buildings	44.3	46.4	40.2	39.6	445.4	433.7	- 3
Educational buildings	26.4	24.0	26.0	28.0	244.7	246.1	+ 1
Institutional buildings	2.5	8.3	6.7	2.4	96.9	76.7	-21
Religious buildings	15.4	14.0	7.5	9.2	103.8	110.8	+ 7
Garages, private residential	1.5	1.6	1.9	1.8	15.2	16.5	+ 9
Industrial buildings	38.1	14.0	13.8	12.2	156.0	117.0	-25
Public buildings	7.7	1.8	3.5	10.4	69.6	91.5	+31
Public utilities buildings	7.8	11.3	7.9	6.6	40.6	73.4	+81
All other nonresidential buildings	3.7	3.2	3.7	10.2	42.1	47.8	+14
Additions, alterations, and repairs	29.4	41.7	35.5	38.7	336.4	390.1	+16
	West						
All building construction [2]	351.9	426.5	349.2	352.2	3,182.9	3,841.4	+21
New dwelling units [3]	228.1	264.2	226.8	224.9	2,009.6	2,511.4	+25
New nonresidential building	89.6	123.8	85.9	92.1	852.1	964.4	+13
Commercial buildings	27.6	45.7	36.3	32.7	256.2	345.7	+35
Amusement buildings	2.3	2.1	2.7	1.2	17.7	16.6	- 6
Commercial garages	1.2	.5	.6	.8	6.4	6.0	- 6
Gasoline and service stations	2.1	2.9	2.3	2.4	19.7	23.6	+20
Office buildings	6.6	16.2	11.2	7.9	72.4	94.8	+31
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	15.4	24.0	19.4	20.4	139.8	204.7	+46
Community buildings	26.2	32.8	22.9	34.1	326.0	296.5	- 9
Educational buildings	20.9	25.1	18.8	20.1	237.1	215.4	- 9
Institutional buildings	.7	3.3	1.2	9.5	41.0	39.2	- 4
Religious buildings	4.7	4.3	3.0	4.5	47.9	42.0	-12
Garages, private residential	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1	24.6	27.1	+10
Industrial buildings	10.2	12.4	12.9	12.1	96.5	143.4	+49
Public buildings	12.1	21.7	1.6	1.7	65.7	69.7	+ 6
Public utilities buildings	1.6	1.8	3.5	3.8	26.2	28.6	+ 9
All other nonresidential buildings	9.0	6.4	5.6	4.7	56.9	53.5	- 6
Additions, alterations, and repairs	27.6	36.3	34.6	32.6	285.3	331.5	+16

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2. [2] Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. [3] Housekeeping only.

Table 14.--Building Permit Activity: Number of Nonresidential Buildings, by Type of Building [1]

Type of building	1954	1955								
	Sept.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Amusement buildings	160	129	155	211	249	319	1,122	206	185	165
Commercial garages	195	140	189	185	193	167	221	157	230	218
Educational buildings	348	284	349	484	536	516	642	486	403	450
Garages, private residential	24,470	6,865	6,674	15,721	23,726	24,898	25,511	22,746	25,366	28,640
Gasoline and service stations	806	620	598	906	971	972	946	826	945	866
Industrial buildings	809	818	894	1,247	1,285	1,236	1,283	1,131	1,236	1,231
Institutional buildings	77	42	75	95	76	84	92	73	106	68
Office buildings	459	403	451	613	631	566	674	610	631	765
Public buildings [2]	119	58	87	135	102	93	127	87	101	79
Public utilities buildings	146	139	159	168	157	165	231	201	178	183
Religious buildings	480	328	351	470	498	515	591	505	525	478
Stores & other mercantile bldgs.	3,061	2,287	2,420	3,605	3,556	3,390	3,214	2,854	3,265	2,735

Source: Department of Labor. [1] The latest month of reference in this table will be the same as in table 13, beginning with the February issue of Construction Review. [2] Publicly owned administrative buildings, such as city halls, police stations, etc.

Table 15.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation and Number of New Dwelling Units, by Type of Structure, Public-Private Ownership, and Region [1]

(Housekeeping units only)

Ownership and type of structure	Valuation *(in millions of dollars)*					Number of dwelling units				
	1954	1955		First 10 months		1954	1955		First 10 months	
	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	1954	1955	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.	1954	1955
UNITED STATES										
All new dwelling units..	896.2	999.3	915.8	8,296.0	10,199.9	94,015	96,328	89,428	909,073	1,018,834
Privately owned	888.2	990.3	900.8	8,150.9	10,067.2	93,806	95,281	87,749	892,754	1,004,500
1-family	825.1	928.2	844.1	7,485.2	9,412.4	83,942	86,088	78,664	783,911	900,237
2-4 family.....	26.1	22.2	21.1	250.7	255.7	4,138	3,379	3,339	42,039	40,480
5-or-more family	37.0	39.9	35.7	415.0	399.3	5,726	5,814	5,746	66,804	63,783
Publicly owned	2.0	9.0	15.0	145.1	132.6	209	1,047	1,679	16,319	14,334
Northeast										
All new dwelling units..	184.0	210.7	206.4	1,850.8	2,202.6	18,153	20,049	20,251	192,271	214,805
Privately owned	184.0	201.7	194.1	1,780.6	2,128.5	18,153	19,002	18,869	184,658	206,588
1-family	166.9	189.5	172.6	1,556.1	1,920.0	15,860	17,454	15,749	154,537	179,081
2-4 family	4.6	4.2	4.0	50.1	50.7	723	590	575	7,451	7,263
5-or-more family	12.5	8.0	17.4	174.3	157.7	1,570	958	2,545	22,670	20,244
Publicly owned	0	9.0	12.3	70.2	74.1	0	1,047	1,382	7,613	8,217
North Central										
All new dwelling units..	268.1	349.0	281.8	2,486.9	3,123.6	24,498	29,412	23,778	233,830	268,648
Privately owned	268.1	349.0	279.2	2,451.7	3,089.4	24,498	29,412	23,482	229,959	265,174
1-family	253.9	327.4	268.2	2,329.9	2,956.4	22,751	27,146	22,182	214,509	249,013
2-4 family.....	7.8	6.6	5.7	64.4	72.6	933	739	629	7,868	8,141
5-or-more family	6.3	14.9	5.3	57.4	60.4	814	1,527	671	7,582	8,020
Publicly owned	0	0	2.7	35.2	34.2	0	0	296	3,871	3,474
South										
All new dwelling units..	209.9	212.9	202.7	1,948.7	2,362.3	25,816	23,449	22,494	250,141	271,674
Privately owned	208.0	212.9	202.7	1,925.2	2,350.8	25,609	23,449	22,493	247,283	270,373
1-family	193.7	202.0	194.1	1,802.6	2,234.9	23,024	21,281	20,734	220,552	245,614
2-4 family.....	6.3	4.4	5.2	53.7	53.7	1,163	857	1,068	11,584	11,483
5-or-more family	7.9	6.5	3.4	68.9	62.1	1,422	1,311	691	15,147	13,276
Publicly owned	1.9	0	0	23.5	11.5	207	0	1	2,858	1,301
West										
All new dwelling units..	228.1	226.8	224.9	2,009.6	2,511.4	25,548	23,418	22,905	232,831	263,707
Privately owned.....	228.1	226.8	224.9	1,993.4	2,498.6	25,546	23,418	22,905	230,854	262,365
1-family	210.6	209.3	209.2	1,796.6	2,301.1	22,307	20,207	19,999	194,313	226,529
2-4 family.....	7.2	7.0	6.2	82.4	78.6	1,319	1,193	1,067	15,136	13,593
5-or-more family	10.3	10.4	9.6	114.5	119.1	1,920	2,018	1,839	21,405	22,243
Publicly owned	(2)	0	0	16.2	12.8	2	0	0	1,977	1,342

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2.
[2] Less than $50,000.

Chart 6.

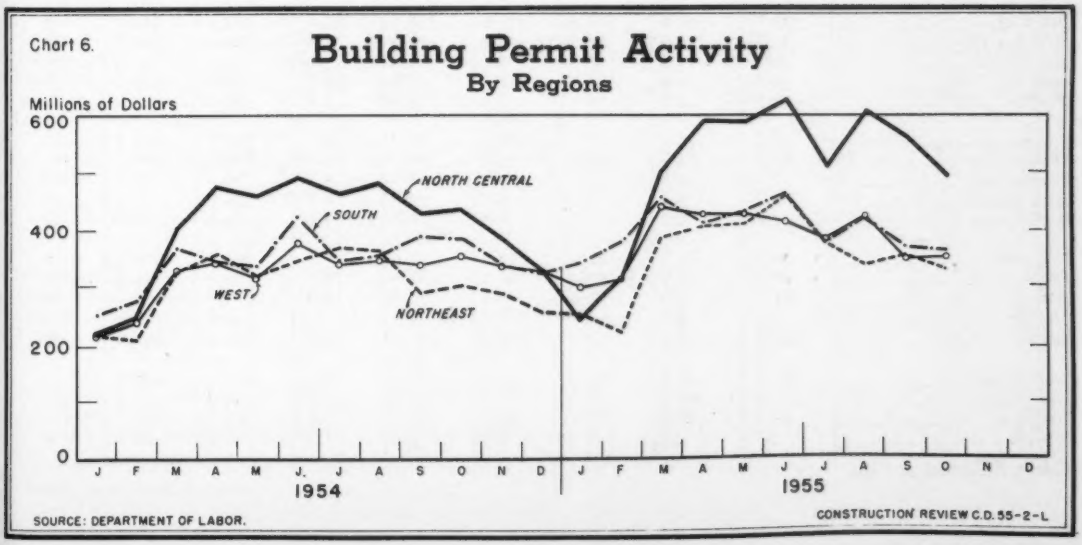


Table 16.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

(Millions of dollars)

State	1954	1955					First 9 months		Percent change, 1st 9 mos. 1954-55
	Sept.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	1954	1955	
ALL STATES	**1,450.5**	**1,867.1**	**1,965.1**	**1,653.4**	**1,793.7**	**1,632.6**	**12,422.3**	**14,924.2**	**+20**
Metropolitan areas	**1,150.9**	**1,481.3**	**1,578.7**	**1,322.4**	**1,433.0**	**1,274.6**	**9,925.6**	**11,941.3**	**+20**
Nonmetropolitan areas	**299.6**	**385.8**	**386.4**	**331.0**	**360.7**	**358.0**	**2,496.7**	**2,982.9**	**+19**
Alabama	12.7	15.1	16.2	13.4	13.6	17.8	101.4	130.0	+28
Arizona	10.9	14.2	13.3	11.2	15.8	11.1	104.8	125.3	+20
Arkansas	6.0	4.0	4.4	4.0	6.4	3.7	62.9	42.4	-33
California	220.1	289.7	283.8	263.8	296.6	237.4	1,905.5	2,401.6	+26
Colorado	22.9	25.8	24.1	27.9	24.4	22.7	177.3	217.9	+23
Connecticut	29.9	38.3	36.8	31.3	30.6	34.1	232.7	283.2	+22
Delaware	4.7	5.3	6.2	8.1	3.6	7.5	41.1	50.0	+22
District of Columbia	5.3	5.4	15.0	4.9	3.3	7.8	41.4	74.4	+80
Florida	58.1	59.5	69.5	56.8	76.8	57.4	477.5	570.7	+20
Georgia	22.4	22.6	23.7	28.8	28.6	21.9	210.9	216.6	+ 3
Idaho	3.3	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.2	4.1	22.8	28.0	+23
Illinois	89.2	146.5	127.7	109.2	137.7	135.3	745.0	1,021.2	+37
Indiana	27.3	40.4	38.9	38.2	29.7	40.9	261.4	297.5	+14
Iowa	12.9	18.9	23.2	16.2	16.9	15.3	106.3	143.1	+35
Kansas	12.6	14.7	34.1	12.9	13.7	12.1	117.2	146.7	+25
Kentucky	12.7	17.0	17.7	17.5	22.8	17.4	141.9	140.6	- 1
Louisiana	21.3	25.7	28.6	19.9	25.4	24.5	167.2	236.1	+41
Maine	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.4	2.9	2.8	20.2	20.9	+ 3
Maryland	38.1	52.3	62.5	39.2	41.3	37.4	299.1	399.7	+34
Massachusetts	25.5	45.3	47.1	46.9	35.9	40.8	290.0	348.6	+20
Michigan	86.7	111.3	117.5	101.1	124.3	109.9	770.2	889.2	+15
Minnesota	32.2		50.3	33.7	45.9	43.5	270.9	330.7	+22
Mississippi	5.3	4.7	6.3	4.0	4.3	3.9	45.7	40.1	-12
Missouri	24.9	23.4	34.9	30.5	33.7	33.9	237.9	267.3	+12
Montana	3.5	6.3	3.1	4.8	4.8	5.3	30.0	33.6	+12
Nebraska	7.9	11.5	10.6	7.2	7.7	8.3	58.0	80.0	+38
Nevada	4.0	8.3	7.7	6.0	3.8	4.6	58.0	56.5	- 3
New Hampshire	1.7	3.6	3.4	6.3	6.7	3.2	18.0	34.1	+89
New Jersey	50.7	79.6	82.3	85.2	64.7	77.0	520.7	643.8	+24
New Mexico	7.2	8.6	9.1	5.9	7.6	7.1	56.9	69.6	+22
New York	115.7	154.8	172.4	121.6	116.5	112.8	1,103.6	1,137.1	+ 3
North Carolina	16.1	21.2	18.8	18.8	18.8	16.5	144.4	174.2	+21
North Dakota	3.6	4.8	6.1	3.2	3.5	5.0	22.5	30.2	+34
Ohio	96.9	121.6	132.6	111.1	146.0	114.7	760.7	959.7	+26
Oklahoma	11.9	12.1	14.2	12.9	14.9	9.7	104.4	123.7	+18
Oregon	16.0	18.9	15.9	16.2	17.2	14.9	116.7	132.1	+13
Pennsylvania	62.7	82.7	107.5	76.6	74.3	81.9	583.1	696.2	+19
Rhode Island	2.8	4.5	5.4	3.7	4.1	3.4	35.7	37.4	+ 5
South Carolina	6.3	8.2	6.4	6.7	7.0	9.8	50.8	75.6	+49
South Dakota	2.8	4.2	3.5	4.4	4.3	3.6	25.0	29.9	+20
Tennessee	18.5	20.3	21.9	20.5	22.6	15.5	161.6	174.8	+ 8
Texas	98.2	97.9	89.8	88.1	87.5	76.2	683.0	813.0	+19
Utah	11.1	12.9	16.8	9.3	15.0	8.0	74.4	95.2	+28
Vermont	1.4	1.3	.6	3.2	2.0	.5	7.1	9.6	+35
Virginia	46.2	51.2	54.9	32.5	39.8	33.5	311.6	369.9	+19
Washington	35.6	40.3	36.9	34.3	36.1	32.6	267.7	313.5	+17
West Virginia	5.4	12.1	7.5	5.4	5.4	7.0	46.9	53.2	+13
Wisconsin	33.6	47.3	47.5	41.5	43.9	37.0	313.3	343.5	+10
Wyoming	2.7	2.2	1.8	2.9	2.0	1.4	17.0	15.7	- 8

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 17.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

(Housekeeping units only)

State	1954	1955					First 9 months		Percent change, 1st. 9 mos. 1954-55
	Sept.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	1954	1955	
ALL STATES	**97,577**	**120,595**	**115,095**	**98,150**	**108,115**	**96,328**	**815,058**	**929,406**	**+14**
Metropolitan areas	**77,575**	**95,780**	**91,798**	**77,725**	**85,860**	**74,749**	**652,968**	**738,532**	**+13**
Nonmetropolitan areas	**20,002**	**24,815**	**23,297**	**20,425**	**22,255**	**21,579**	**162,090**	**190,874**	**+18**
Alabama	1,252	1,292	1,176	1,264	1,250	1,188	9,467	10,835	+14
Arizona	927	1,605	1,095	766	1,179	936	8,429	10,925	+30
Arkansas	368	337	301	278	334	257	3,047	3,313	+ 9
California	16,226	20,092	18,373	17,888	19,139	16,768	146,546	171,101	+17
Colorado	1,783	1,705	1,727	1,544	1,648	1,823	13,253	16,187	+22
Connecticut	1,391	2,027	2,091	1,888	1,520	1,443	13,373	14,499	+ 8
Delaware	475	344	528	550	188	460	2,874	3,394	+18
District of Columbia	135	287	287	192	107	150	2,262	2,488	+10
Florida	4,366	4,266	4,739	3,843	4,942	4,090	34,899	41,093	+18
Georgia	1,693	2,038	1,904	1,715	1,874	1,522	15,778	16,184	+ 3
Idaho	171	261	181	147	189	237	1,236	1,572	+27
Illinois	5,072	8,627	6,836	5,631	8,369	6,902	41,334	56,269	+36
Indiana	1,932	2,333	2,338	2,105	1,823	2,727	16,729	17,535	+ 5
Iowa	725	1,105	1,337	895	952	821	5,902	7,832	+33
Kansas	910	1,119	1,100	956	926	707	8,074	8,644	+ 7
Kentucky	1,002	1,474	1,182	1,163	1,807	1,221	8,751	10,438	+19
Louisiana	1,351	1,378	1,446	1,072	1,018	1,376	10,397	11,541	+11
Maine	121	169	191	136	146	164	936	1,149	+23
Maryland	3,325	2,623	2,827	2,095	2,662	2,343	23,821	24,808	+ 4
Massachusetts	1,638	2,650	2,816	2,069	2,060	2,578	16,838	20,202	+20
Michigan	5,608	6,768	6,816	5,559	6,836	5,612	46,159	49,916	+ 8
Minnesota	1,943	2,226	2,156	1,800	1,908	2,136	13,281	15,584	+17
Mississippi	393	331	379	312	293	357	3,214	2,961	- 8
Missouri	1,322	1,263	1,844	1,717	1,752	1,677	13,298	14,346	+ 8
Montana	159	311	204	213	198	198	1,368	1,668	+22
Nebraska	615	769	610	522	572	412	3,914	4,822	+23
Nevada	344	595	470	374	257	231	3,802	3,007	-21
New Hampshire	127	276	225	206	230	235	1,277	1,774	+39
New Jersey	3,987	5,717	5,141	5,497	4,592	4,770	38,106	42,623	+12
New Mexico	622	757	617	516	549	474	5,034	5,183	+ 3
New York	8,173	10,865	10,955	7,800	8,408	7,200	70,324	74,620	+ 6
North Carolina	1,068	1,373	1,163	995	1,058	1,046	9,477	10,616	+12
North Dakota	205	277	175	161	180	211	1,297	1,372	+ 6
Ohio	5,716	6,912	6,946	5,383	7,155	5,985	42,280	49,809	+18
Oklahoma	866	845	894	777	784	770	8,008	8,273	+ 3
Oregon	833	927	699	914	768	679	6,030	6,454	+ 7
Pennsylvania	3,856	4,722	5,212	4,492	4,048	3,413	30,372	36,674	+21
Rhode Island	182	259	405	293	310	216	2,663	2,738	+ 3
South Carolina	476	494	467	414	426	395	3,629	4,196	+16
South Dakota	227	254	322	207	224	246	1,633	1,894	+16
Tennessee	1,520	1,875	1,611	1,443	1,541	1,187	11,958	14,122	+18
Texas	6,481	7,017	6,160	5,062	5,560	4,676	51,277	56,134	+ 9
Utah	554	680	1,041	576	998	446	4,878	6,008	+23
Vermont	28	47	34	34	51	30	228	275	+21
Virginia	3,138	3,989	3,325	2,559	2,790	2,100	23,194	26,176	+13
Washington	1,905	2,149	2,082	1,906	1,940	1,520	15,523	17,671	+14
West Virginia	305	358	323	300	307	311	2,272	2,608	+15
Wisconsin	1,851	2,655	2,245	1,787	2,095	1,976	15,431	16,847	+ 9
Wyoming	210	152	99	134	152	106	1,185	1,026	-13

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 18.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

(Millions of dollars)

Metropolitan area	1954	1955					First 9 months		Percent change, 1st 9 mos. 1954-55
	Sept.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	1954	1955	
Atlanta, Ga.	15.9	14.5	15.9	19.0	21.3	14.6	131.3	142.7	+ 9
Baltimore, Md.	22.7	31.4	27.1	22.2	19.5	17.2	163.6	210.3	+29
Birmingham, Ala.	5.8	7.1	6.8	5.3	6.3	7.3	38.0	55.5	+46
Boston, Mass.	14.0	24.2	28.5	24.3	18.7	18.1	161.1	187.4	+16
Buffalo, N. Y.	11.0	15.0	19.0	19.8	14.2	16.2	116.3	130.2	+12
Chicago, Ill.	78.2	134.2	115.3	97.3	122.5	112.9	662.4	899.1	+36
Cleveland, Ohio	30.1	33.3	36.4	35.9	40.2	36.1	225.1	282.9	+26
Columbus, Ohio	12.3	16.5	16.1	13.3	27.9	11.0	92.9	122.0	+31
Denver, Colo.	15.0	17.0	14.5	12.7	13.9	11.8	119.2	131.3	+10
Detroit, Mich.	55.8	74.9	79.8	66.3	85.5	76.2	516.8	600.3	+16
Indianapolis, Ind.	10.5	14.4	10.7	11.2	8.4	11.0	81.1	84.4	+ 4
Los Angeles, Calif.	115.0	148.6	141.5	117.5	162.5	120.6	978.3	1,223.1	+25
Memphis, Tenn.	7.3	7.4	8.0	7.0	5.3	4.2	64.8	61.7	- 5
Miami, Fla.	21.5	20.0	26.5	16.4	28.4	17.0	168.4	203.7	+21
Milwaukee, Wis.	15.8	16.6	15.7	15.7	19.3	12.5	150.9	137.1	- 9
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	114.4	153.8	173.4	125.4	119.4	122.9	1,149.3	1,189.1	+ 3
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	6.8	6.4	8.8	3.7	3.8	3.5	54.4	52.2	- 4
Phoenix, Ariz.	6.6	10.2	8.6	7.3	9.1	7.0	70.1	84.2	+20
Rochester, N. Y.	5.1	8.8	9.2	8.6	6.1	6.2	47.8	66.8	+40
Salt Lake City, Utah	4.2	4.3	7.7	4.4	8.5	4.6	43.4	48.5	+12
San Diego, Calif.	9.4	14.1	18.7	13.7	13.9	12.4	115.8	129.3	+12
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	38.6	45.2	45.0	56.8	49.4	39.3	311.4	397.5	+28
Seattle, Wash.	13.2	17.3	15.5	14.1	18.6	13.9	117.7	142.2	+21
Washington, D. C.	32.5	35.2	60.4	27.1	29.9	31.6	231.2	323.2	+40

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 19.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

(Housekeeping only)

Metropolitan area	1954	1955					First 9 months		Percent change, 1st 9 mos. 1954-55
	Sept.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	1954	1955	
Atlanta, Ga.	1,054	1,216	1,125	990	1,186	964	9,320	9,662	+ 4
Baltimore, Md.	1,873	1,091	1,190	1,050	1,304	919	11,783	12,084	+ 3
Birmingham, Ala.	477	548	522	412	564	503	3,591	4,321	+20
Boston, Mass.	697	1,073	1,297	1,071	1,035	933	8,062	9,188	+14
Buffalo, N. Y.	818	1,154	1,205	1,483	1,075	1,054	7,154	9,220	+29
Chicago, Ill.	4,351	7,865	6,082	4,963	7,555	5,862	37,405	49,867	+33
Cleveland, Ohio	1,331	1,487	1,700	1,452	1,756	1,477	10,241	12,613	+23
Columbus, Ohio	596	955	1,040	771	946	574	5,642	6,325	+12
Denver, Colo.	1,152	1,084	1,129	981	993	945	8,775	10,759	+23
Detroit, Mich.	3,768	4,545	4,423	3,358	4,559	3,481	31,344	32,680	+ 4
Indianapolis, Ind.	780	622	747	646	511	787	4,971	5,030	+ 1
Los Angeles, Calif.	8,496	10,431	9,449	8,102	9,037	8,417	76,381	85,578	+12
Memphis, Tenn.	694	879	635	595	448	395	5,288	6,001	+13
Miami, Fla.	1,113	1,360	1,405	1,086	1,648	1,190	11,468	13,081	+14
Milwaukee, Wis.	740	942	841	679	825	612	7,256	6,402	-12
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	8,372	11,017	11,079	7,642	8,190	7,446	74,319	76,912	+ 3
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	795	758	520	412	341	234	5,092	4,762	- 6
Phoenix, Ariz.	682	1,333	647	503	793	709	6,282	8,010	+28
Rochester, N. Y.	375	539	565	501	427	429	2,968	3,929	+32
Salt Lake City, Utah	240	278	621	296	578	205	2,975	3,310	+11
San Diego, Calif.	784	958	943	1,057	904	1,014	7,596	8,804	+16
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	2,633	2,934	2,807	3,199	2,955	2,481	21,376	25,878	+21
Seattle, Wash.	828	958	842	929	1,005	709	7,230	8,236	+14
Washington, D. C.	2,045	2,499	2,704	1,604	1,627	1,829	18,119	18,676	+ 3

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 20.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation in Selected Metropolitan Areas by Class of Construction and Type of Building

September 1955 *(Thousands of dollars)*

Class of construction and type of building	Atlanta, Ga.	Baltimore, Md.	Birmingham, Ala.	Boston, Mass.	Buffalo, N. Y.	Chicago, Ill.	Cleveland, Ohio	Columbus, Ohio
All building construction [1]	**14,622**	**17,201**	**7,301**	**18,071**	**16,153**	**112,931**	**36,089**	**10,958**
New dwelling units [2]	8,219	8,714	3,949	9,798	10,272	74,875	22,607	8,176
New nonresidential building	4,799	7,338	2,616	5,547	5,023	32,208	10,310	1,428
Commercial buildings	2,509	2,787	2,089	1,251	743	4,606	1,819	467
Amusement buildings	404	10	15	253	10	228	59	23
Commercial garages	505	16	0	7	84	138	160	43
Gasoline and service stations	103	35	84	94	125	413	166	34
Office buildings	370	57	0	65	10	689	402	184
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	1,127	2,669	1,990	833	515	3,139	1,033	184
Community buildings	1,753	1,529	464	3,367	786	12,375	2,584	333
Educational buildings	1,538	1,374	0	2,607	400	11,100	1,984	145
Institutional buildings	0	0	0	550	0	0	0	0
Religious buildings	215	154	464	210	386	1,275	600	188
Garages, private residential	22	78	28	210	494	2,730	740	216
Industrial buildings	203	2,566	32	167	655	8,042	3,467	380
Public buildings	0	0	0	0	1,921	2,086	1,137	22
Public utilities buildings	193	265	0	475	30	1,100	502	0
All other nonresidential buildings	119	113	4	77	393	1,269	60	10
Additions, alterations, and repairs	1,004	1,149	736	2,719	813	5,753	2,084	554

Class of construction and type of building	Denver, Colo.	Detroit, Mich.	Indianapolis, Ind.	Los Angeles, Calif.	Memphis, Tenn.	Miami, Fla.	Milwaukee, Wis.	New York-Northeastern New Jersey
All building construction [1]	**11,758**	**76,153**	**11,031**	**120,604**	**4,240**	**16,987**	**12,532**	**122,910**
New dwelling units [2]	7,994	41,996	8,743	82,139	2,855	10,898	7,857	81,002
New nonresidential building	2,750	27,466	1,798	26,215	650	3,111	3,619	32,458
Commercial buildings	845	4,961	567	9,155	78	927	1,615	18,622
Amusement buildings	0	124	0	401	0	41	25	208
Commercial garages	0	291	8	101	0	7	110	616
Gasoline and service stations	164	380	55	284	18	161	72	515
Office buildings	12	1,125	248	2,982	0	37	1,318	2,619
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	669	3,041	257	5,388	60	681	89	14,663
Community buildings	1,423	7,226	647	4,178	31	109	1,260	6,683
Educational buildings	1,395	3,408	0	3,361	0	0	250	5,114
Institutional buildings	10	3,085	0	196	0	35	240	32
Religious buildings	18	733	647	621	31	74	770	1,537
Garages, private residential	290	2,887	178	768	127	40	469	1,531
Industrial buildings	173	12,031	404	5,706	402	703	219	4,117
Public buildings	0	168	0	1,105	0	1,114	0	138
Public utilities buildings	0	8	0	2,060	0	6	43	832
All other nonresidential buildings	18	184	3	3,242	13	213	14	535
Additions, alterations, and repairs	1,012	6,691	490	12,115	736	2,118	1,056	9,407

Class of construction and type of building	Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	Phoenix, Ariz.	Rochester, N. Y.	Salt Lake City, Utah	San Diego, Calif.	San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	Seattle, Wash.	Washington, D. C.
All building construction [1]	**3,496**	**7,026**	**6,226**	**4,556**	**12,431**	**39,348**	**13,857**	**31,636**
New dwelling units [2]	2,317	5,086	4,887	2,540	10,076	26,530	8,616	19,839
New nonresidential building	741	1,375	879	1,702	1,399	7,744	3,573	9,197
Commercial buildings	538	776	177	939	606	2,863	2,115	2,831
Amusement buildings	100	1	7	0	3	97	10	30
Commercial garages	0	66	0	0	0	51	6	176
Gasoline and service stations	66	66	56	86	29	343	62	198
Office buildings	10	235	0	750	268	988	289	1,473
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	362	407	115	103	306	1,384	1,748	955
Community buildings	82	111	305	200	98	3,196	379	4,959
Educational buildings	0	70	255	0	25	3,047	56	4,451
Institutional buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	401
Religious buildings	82	41	50	200	73	149	323	108
Garages, private residential	63	11	152	215	169	222	103	54
Industrial buildings	8	377	222	317	185	709	816	32
Public buildings	0	0	0	0	149	188	42	978
Public utilities buildings	0	0	0	0	18	217	50	266
All other nonresidential buildings	50	101	22	32	176	349	68	76
Additions, alterations, and repairs	419	475	451	314	945	4,933	1,587	2,540

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. [2] Housekeeping only.

Part IV--Contract Awards

Table 21.--Contract Awards: Public Construction, by Ownership and Type of Construction [1]

Ownership and type of construction [2]	Value *(in millions of dollars)*									Percent change, first 10 months, 1954-55
	1954	1955						First 10 months		
	Oct.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	1954	1955	
ALL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	734.1	811.1	1,083.9	704.0	718.0	733.3	673.5	7,000.7	7,306.7	+ 4
FEDERALLY OWNED	136.4	114.6	308.1	42.3	55.1	122.0	94.8	1,227.1	1,157.5	- 6
Residential building	0	.8	10.4	1.2	0	.1	.1	3.9	21.0	(3)
Nonresidential building	81.6	61.7	226.7	24.5	35.2	61.3	34.9	767.5	694.0	-10
Educational	3.1	.2	.9	.8	.2	4.6	.1	14.5	8.4	-42
Hospital and institutional	8.1	2.9	40.3	1.2	2.6	3.3	1.1	56.0	71.1	+27
Administrative and general	2.5	4.7	7.9	.9	2.2	20.4	2.7	33.2	52.6	+58
Other nonresidential building	67.9	53.9	177.6	21.6	30.2	33.0	31.0	663.8	561.9	-15
Airfield building	6.4	9.3	27.3	1.2	.4	1.8	3.4	72.5	91.0	+26
Industrial	22.1	16.1	86.6	7.3	10.1	15.6	18.1	350.4	238.0	-32
Troop housing	29.8	5.7	11.3	.7	3.1	1.5	2.8	64.4	46.7	-27
Warehouses	3.0	6.3	25.5	7.8	11.0	2.9	2.8	79.6	77.9	- 2
All other	6.6	16.5	26.9	4.6	5.6	11.2	3.9	96.9	108.3	+12
Airfields	11.9	9.7	18.3	2.7	3.8	4.6	9.1	140.0	115.2	-18
Conservation and development	32.2	26.8	28.3	8.7	6.3	48.0	40.7	164.5	210.3	+28
Highway	6.0	4.8	9.7	4.5	4.8	6.0	4.2	52.9	51.1	- 3
Electric power	3.6	5.6	3.3	(4)	1.8	.6	2.6	49.7	25.8	-48
All other federally owned	1.1	5.2	11.4	.7	3.2	1.4	3.2	48.6	40.1	-17
STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED	597.7	696.5	775.8	661.7	662.9	611.3	578.7	5,773.6	6,149.2	+ 7
Residential building	10.1	27.2	19.4	18.1	27.5	17.7	18.7	232.7	184.1	-21
Nonresidential building	225.7	251.7	262.1	284.9	219.0	208.2	230.6	2,420.4	2,372.0	- 2
Educational	165.6	186.2	182.8	215.7	146.2	159.7	165.8	1,752.1	1,731.8	- 1
Hospital and institutional	14.7	26.9	19.4	15.5	14.0	16.9	19.9	208.5	171.4	-18
Administrative and general	23.0	18.2	27.7	22.5	35.5	13.2	27.3	225.8	226.0	(5)
Other nonresidential building	22.4	20.4	32.2	31.2	23.3	18.4	17.6	234.0	242.8	+ 4
Highway	243.9	238.8	349.7	255.8	282.0	242.1	215.1	2,234.8	2,382.9	+ 7
Sewerage systems	64.3	37.4	49.1	38.7	43.2	65.8	35.6	410.1	424.0	+ 3
Water supply facilities	26.7	27.1	27.3	26.5	39.4	37.0	35.7	240.1	299.6	+25
Utilities	10.5	102.3	57.5	28.0	40.3	24.2	29.2	139.2	375.2	+170
Electric power	3.4	85.0	36.7	4.7	21.1	9.7	15.4	66.3	217.0	+227
Other utilities	7.1	17.3	20.8	23.3	19.2	14.5	13.8	72.9	158.2	+117
All other State and locally owned	16.5	12.0	10.7	9.7	11.5	16.3	13.8	96.3	111.4	+16

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. [1] Includes major force-account projects started, principally by TVA and State highway departments. [2] Types not shown separately are included in the appropriate "other" category. [3] Percent increase exceeds 300. [4] Less than $50,000. [5] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 22.--Contract Awards: Highway Construction, by Ownership, Source of Funds, and Type of Facility [1]

Ownership, source of funds, and type of facility	Value *(in millions of dollars)*									Percent change, first 10 months 1954-55
	1954	1955						First 10 months		
	Oct.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	1954	1955	
ALL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION	249.9	243.6	359.4	260.3	286.8	248.1	219.3	2,287.7	2,434.0	+ 6
FEDERALLY OWNED	6.0	4.8	9.7	4.5	4.8	6.0	4.2	52.9	51.1	- 3
STATE OWNED	215.9	190.2	296.4	204.3	242.2	207.1	189.2	1,889.1	2,046.9	+ 8
Federally aided projects:										
Total value	91.9	99.6	139.3	115.3	140.2	114.0	95.3	997.0	1,029.1	+ 3
Federal funds	49.2	52.7	72.9	61.4	72.0	59.3	51.6	515.2	545.4	+ 6
Independent State projects:										
Total value	124.0	90.6	157.1	89.0	102.0	93.1	94.0	892.1	1,017.9	+14
Toll facilities	89.6	37.0	84.7	30.0	45.2	38.8	41.8	364.5	512.7	+41
LOCALLY OWNED [2]	28.0	48.6	53.3	51.5	39.8	35.0	25.9	345.7	336.0	- 3

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. [1] Includes force-account work started on Federal and State projects. [2] By municipalities and counties.

Chart 7.

Contracts Awarded on Public Construction

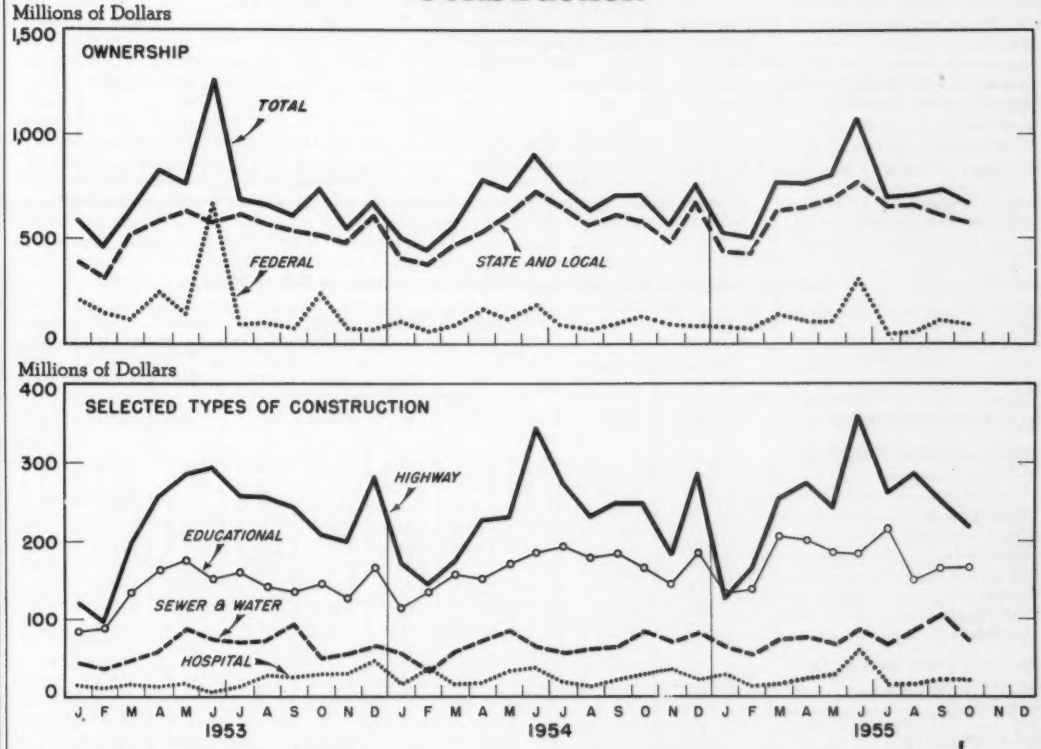


Table 23.--Contracts Awarded in 37 Eastern States

Type of construction	Value *(in millions of dollars)*			Percent change		
				November 1955 from		
	November 1955	October 1955	First 11 months, 1955	October 1955	November 1954	First 11 months, 1954-55
TOTAL	**1,797**	**1,863**	**21,825**	**- 4**	**+20**	**+22**
Building construction	1,389	1,475	17,244	- 6	+16	+22
Residential	726	783	9,474	- 7	+ 2	+22
Nonresidential	663	692	7,770	- 4	+35	+21
Engineering	408	388	4,581	+ 5	+36	+21
Public works	280	277	3,265	+ 1	+37	+16
Utilities	128	111	1,316	+16	+36	+38

Source: Compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by F. W. Dodge Corporation.

Part V--Costs

Table 24.--Construction Cost Indexes

Compiler and coverage	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									Percent change, November 1954-55
	1955						1952	1953	1954	
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Nov.	Nov.	Nov.	
American Appraisal Company	128.5	130.0	130.4	130.6	131.1	131.5	120.0	124.5	127.2	+3
Associated General Contractors	135.8	137.0	137.0	136.4	137.3	137.9	123.1	129.3	133.6	+3
E. H. Boeckh and Associates (20 city average):										
Residences	124.2	124.6	124.9	125.2	125.5	125.7	119.9	121.5	121.0	+4
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings	130.5	131.5	131.8	132.3	132.6	132.9	123.3	127.3	127.5	+4
Commercial and factory buildings	131.4	133.1	133.4	133.8	134.1	134.3	123.7	127.8	128.6	+4
Engineering News-Record (as of Dec. 1):										
Building	138.3	141.4	141.7	142.0	141.8	141.6	125.7	128.8	135.1	+5
Construction	145.7	148.4	148.5	148.8	148.6	148.6	129.7	134.9	141.9	+5
Department of Commerce composite [1]	124.6	125.8	126.2	126.5	126.7	126.8	120.4	122.4	122.4	+4

Source: Department of Commerce. [1] A composite of cost indexes representative of the major types of construction, weighted by the current relative importance of each type.

Table 25.--Indexes of Wholesale Prices of Building Materials, by Selected Classes

Commodity	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									Percent change, Nov. 1954-55
	1955						1952	1953	1954	
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Nov.	Nov.	Nov.	
ALL BUILDING MATERIALS [1]	124.1	125.7	127.4	128.5	128.7	128.2	118.4	119.5	121.9	+ 5
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS:										
Lumber	124.7	125.1	126.4	127.1	126.8	126.4	120.0	116.3	119.6	+ 6
Douglas fir	131.9	132.3	134.1	134.7	132.4	130.1	124.9	109.6	125.2	+ 4
Southern pine	113.4	113.6	115.3	116.6	117.0	117.4	118.3	113.2	113.9	+ 3
Other softwoods	137.8	138.2	138.4	138.6	138.5	138.5	129.2	129.8	131.3	+ 6
Hardwoods	118.2	118.9	120.4	121.3	122.3	122.9	110.5	115.2	111.7	+10
Millwork	128.3	128.3	128.3	128.2	128.2	128.2	127.5	131.2	130.2	- 2
Plywood	105.6	105.7	105.7	106.1	106.1	105.9	102.3	103.1	104.3	+ 2
Softwood	110.5	110.7	110.7	110.7	110.7	108.9	103.9	102.4	110.4	- 1
Hardwood	102.6	102.6	102.6	103.6	103.4	105.0	101.1	103.6	100.1	+ 5
PAINT AND PAINT MATERIALS:										
Prepared paint	114.8	114.8	114.8	114.8	115.0	115.0	110.5	112.7	112.8	+ 2
Paint materials	96.9	97.1	97.6	97.6	97.4	97.1	96.5	97.7	96.6	+ 1
METAL PRODUCTS:										
Structural shapes	146.2	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	134.9	141.9	146.2	+ 8
Hardware, finish	139.9	139.9	139.9	140.8	143.9	143.9	122.3	136.6	138.0	+ 4
Plumbing equipment	123.2	123.2	128.1	128.1	129.4	133.0	118.1	118.2	118.7	+12
Enameled iron fixtures	129.3	129.3	131.9	131.9	131.9	131.9	122.6	129.2	129.2	+ 2
Vitreous china fixtures	117.3	117.3	123.0	122.9	123.1	123.8	123.0	111.7	111.7	+11
Brass fittings	123.4	123.4	129.4	129.4	131.7	138.1	113.1	115.9	117.1	+18
Heating equipment	113.5	113.6	116.0	117.2	117.3	117.3	113.6	115.8	114.3	+ 3
Furnaces	119.8	119.8	122.8	123.2	123.2	123.2	117.2	120.8	121.1	+ 2
Water heaters	107.4	107.4	110.9	112.0	112.0	112.0	113.3	111.0	108.2	+ 4
Metal sash	133.2	144.2	146.4	146.4	146.3	146.3	117.7	127.3	132.5	+10
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS:										
Glass, plate	132.0	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	120.9	132.0	132.0	+ 4
Glass, window	138.8	138.8	138.8	138.8	145.5	145.5	118.0	131.3	131.3	+11
Concrete ingredients	124.9	125.0	125.3	125.3	125.6	125.6	112.9	119.4	122.1	+ 3
Portland cement	131.6	131.8	131.8	131.7	132.2	132.3	116.4	124.4	128.3	+ 3
Concrete products	118.3	118.3	118.6	119.8	120.2	120.5	112.7	117.4	117.4	+ 3
Structural clay products	137.3	141.3	142.9	143.9	144.3	144.5	124.0	132.1	135.4	+ 7
Gypsum products	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	117.7	122.1	122.1	0
Asphalt roofing	106.7	110.8	114.5	114.6	114.4	100.6	106.0	109.9	106.1	- 5
Insulation materials	106.7	106.7	106.7	107.1	107.1	106.7	106.9	110.1	107.3	- 1
MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS:										
Building board	129.7	129.7	132.7	132.7	133.3	133.3	118.2	123.0	127.6	+ 5
Kitchen cabinets, metal	128.2	131.7	133.9	136.5	136.5	136.5	125.2	127.2	128.2	+ 7

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes items not shown separately.

Table 26.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials

Commodity	Unit	1955		1954
		Oct.	Sept.	Oct.
LUMBER				
Douglas fir:				
Dimension, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, 2"x4", R.L., mixed c/l, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	$74.116	$77.259	$71.810
Boards, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, R.L., 1"x8", loose, mixed c/l of boards and dimension, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	68.273	70.364	67.102
Timbers, No. 1, 8"x8" to 12"x12", R.L., green, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	82.108	82.263	70.568
Southern pine:				
Dimension, No. 2 and better, 2"x4"x16', dry, S.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	83.871	83.442	79.476
Boards, No. 2 and better, 1"x6", dry, R.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	80.683	80.155	75.923
Ponderosa pine boards, No. 3 common, 1"x8", R.L., S2 or 4S, c/l or mixed cars, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	80.130	80.740	71.380
Oak, red, flooring, plain, 25/32" thick, 2-1/4" face, select, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	197.414	196.943	171.907
Maple flooring, 2d grade, 25/32"x2-1/4" face, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	190.904	186.559	174.369
Poplar, plain, No. 2B common, 4/4", R.W., f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	55.000	55.000	55.000
Beech, No. 2 common, 4/4", R.W. & L., f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	52.000	52.000	47.000
MILLWORK				
Door, Douglas fir, interior, 2 plywood panels, 2'6"x6'8"x1-3/8", f.o.b. factory	*Each*	4.528	4.729	4.829
Door frame, ponderosa pine, exterior, 1-5/16"x2" casing, with sill, f.o.b. factory	*Each*	9.351	9.326	9.214
Window, ponderosa pine, 2-light, check rail, open, f.o.b. factory	*Each*	1.665	1.662	1.642
PLYWOOD				
Douglas fir, interior, grade A-D, 1/4"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill	*M sq. ft.*	80.807	80.807	80.807
Douglas fir, interior, grade C-D, 5/16"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill	*M sq. ft.*	70.660	70.660	70.039
BOARD				
Insulation, fiber, 1/2"x48"x96", interior, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*M sq. ft.*	55.500	55.000	53.000
PREPARED PAINT				
Emulsion, water-thinned, inside, delivered	*Gallon*	2.399	2.399	2.372
Varnish, floor, first grade, delivered	*Gallon*	3.778	3.767	3.682
Enamel, white, gloss, first grade, delivered	*Gallon*	4.639	4.628	4.497
Inside, flat, white, first grade, delivered	*Gallon*	2.956	2.945	2.868
Outside, white, first grade, delivered	*Gallon*	4.348	4.348	4.342
METAL PRODUCTS				
Structural shapes, carbon steel, 6"x4"x1/2" angles, 30' long, ASTM spec. A-7, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	*100 lb.*	4.867	4.867	4.517
Bars, reinforcing, carbon steel, 3/4" rounds x 30' long with 10% shorts, spec. ASTM A-15, 50T, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	*100 lb.*	5.313	5.313	5.050
Sheets, galvanized, carbon steel, 24 gage x 30" wide x 96" long, commercial coating, base chemistry, base packaging, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	*100 lb.*	7.690	7.690	7.220
Pipe, standard, black, carbon steel, buttweld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	*100 ft.*	16.366	16.366	15.000
Pipe, standard, galvanized, carbon steel, buttweld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	*100 ft.*	19.971	19.971	18.605
Nails, wire, carbon steel, 8-penny, common, c/l, f.o.b. mill	*100 lb. keg*	8.618	8.618	7.815
Soil pipe, cast iron, 2" to 6", single and double hub, service pipe, extra heavy, f.o.b. foundry, index number (1947-49 = 100)	*Ton*	(111.3)	(111.3)	(108.4)
Aluminum sheets, 3003-H14, hard alloy, mill finish, 0.64"x48"x144", 30,000 lbs. or over, f.o.b. shipping point, freight allowed	*Pound*	$0.393	$0.393	(1)
Copper water tubing, type L, 3/4" size, 0.045" thick, 2,000 ft. or more in 60' coils (0.455 lbs. per linear ft.), f.o.b. mill, freight allowed	*Foot*	.319	.317	$0.253
Wire, building, type R, size 12, single braid, f.o.b. destination, or freight prepaid on specified amounts	*M ft.*	17.510	17.510	11.794
Screening, insect, bronze wire, 18x14 mesh, 30" wide, c/l, f.o.b. factory	*Linear ft. roll*	29.673	25.840	24.540
PLUMBING EQUIPMENT				
Bath tub, enameled iron, 5', recessed, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	*Each*	55.113	55.113	53.841
Lavatory, enameled iron, 20"x18", f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	*Each*	13.500	13.500	12.858
Water closet, vitreous china, close coupled, reverse trap, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	*Each*	24.392	24.328	21.778
Sink, enameled steel, 32"x21", flat rim, 2-compartment, acid resisting, without drainboard, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	*Each*	16.634	16.634	16.058

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 26.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials--Continued

Commodity	Unit	1955		1954
		Oct.	Sept.	Oct.
HEATING EQUIPMENT				
Boiler, heating, steel, oil fired, steam rating 400 sq. ft., less burner, with jacket and standard trim, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	*Each*	$186.122	$186.122	$186.618
Convector, nonferrous, free standing, average steam rating 43 sq. ft., E.D.R., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	*Sq. ft., incl. enclosure*	.442	.442	.432
Furnace, warm air:				
Steel, oil fired, forced air, gun-type burner, average bonnet output 90,000-115,000 BTU per hr., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	*Each*	247.575	252.612	252.052
Steel, gas fired, standard automatic controls, average input rating 85,000-110,000 BTU per hr., enclosing jacket, f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	*Each*	166.051	166.051	168.144
Furnace, floor, gas fired, floor grill, average input rating 40,000-60,000 BTU per hr., manual controls, f.o.b. factory	*Each*	60.306	60.306	56.967
Oil burner, mechanical forced draft (gun-type), 2-1/2 gal. per hr., thermostat, limit and stack controls, f.o.b. factory	*Each*	102.100	102.100	104.245
Water heater, gas, automatic, 30-gal. storage tank, galvanized steel, 1-year guarantee, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	*Each*	40.954	40.954	39.079
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS				
Sand, construction, f.o.b. plant	*Ton*	1.195	1.195	1.148
Gravel, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	*Ton*	1.438	1.437	1.373
Crushed stone, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	*Ton*	1.600	1.597	1.549
Block, concrete, lightweight aggregate, 8"x8"x16", f.o.b. plant	*Each*	.176	.176	.180
Pipe, concrete, culvert, reinforced, 24" diameter, ASTM spec. C76-41 table 1, 3" wall thickness, 3'-8' lengths, delivered	*Foot*	3.910	3.910	3.646
Brick, building, f.o.b. plant	*Thousand*	29.736	29.451	28.382
Brick, face, red, first quality, textured, f.o.b. plant	*Thousand*	38.415	38.207	36.807
Tile, clay, partition, scored, 4"x12"x12", 3-cell, 16 lbs., f.o.b. plant	*Thousand*	130.431	130.431	122.219
Sewer pipe, vitrified clay, 8" diameter, 3' lengths, standard strength, f.o.b. plant	*Foot*	.500	.497	.457
Lath, gypsum, 3/8"x16"x48", f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*M sq. ft.*	24.010	24.010	24.010
Wallboard, gypsum, 3/8"x48", varying lengths, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*M sq. ft.*	31.850	31.850	31.850
Plaster, gypsum, base coat, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*Ton*	14.948	14.948	14.948
Shingles, asphalt, strip, 210 lbs., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	*Square*	5.715	5.762	5.298
Lime, hydrated, building, finishing, f.o.b. plant	*Ton*	19.972	19.972	17.914
Siding shingles, asbestos cement, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*Square*	10.306	10.306	9.697

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Not available.

HOUSING MARKET STUDIES

Three recently published studies describe the kinds of houses people want, factors determining where they want them, and the costs of providing municipal services to residential areas, for the use of architects, builders, developers, lending institutions, and municipal planners. The reports contain detailed tabulations, methodology, and analytical text based on research undertaken by various universities for the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

How to Make and Interpret Locational Studies of the Housing Market (P.B. 111653, price $1.) A case study analyzing the locational distribution of population in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Presented are methods and procedures which local organizations could use to measure and predict trends in housing markets in their areas.

The Cost of Municipal Services in Residential Areas (P.B. 111652, price $2.) Based on an analysis of three representive suburban areas in Massachusetts, this report was undertaken to develop techniques which would be useful in measuring long-term costs of municipal services in different types of areas. Variations in costs resulting from different patterns and densities of residential growth are analyzed.

What People Want When They Buy A House (P.B. 111654, price $3.) Analyzes information on housing preferences obtained from interviews with approximately 1,000 people who bought houses in 1949-50, from various surveys of housing likes and dislikes published between 1936 and 1950, and from studies of the characteristics of houses built in 1949-51. Describes the home buyers in terms of previous housing, income, and family composition; the houses purchased; the financing arrangements; and the buyers' satisfaction.

These HHFA-sponsored studies were published by the Office of Technical Services, U. S. Department of Commerce. They may be purchased at that Office (Washington 25, D.C.), or at any of the 33 Commerce Department Field Offices (see inside front cover of Construction Review for addresses).

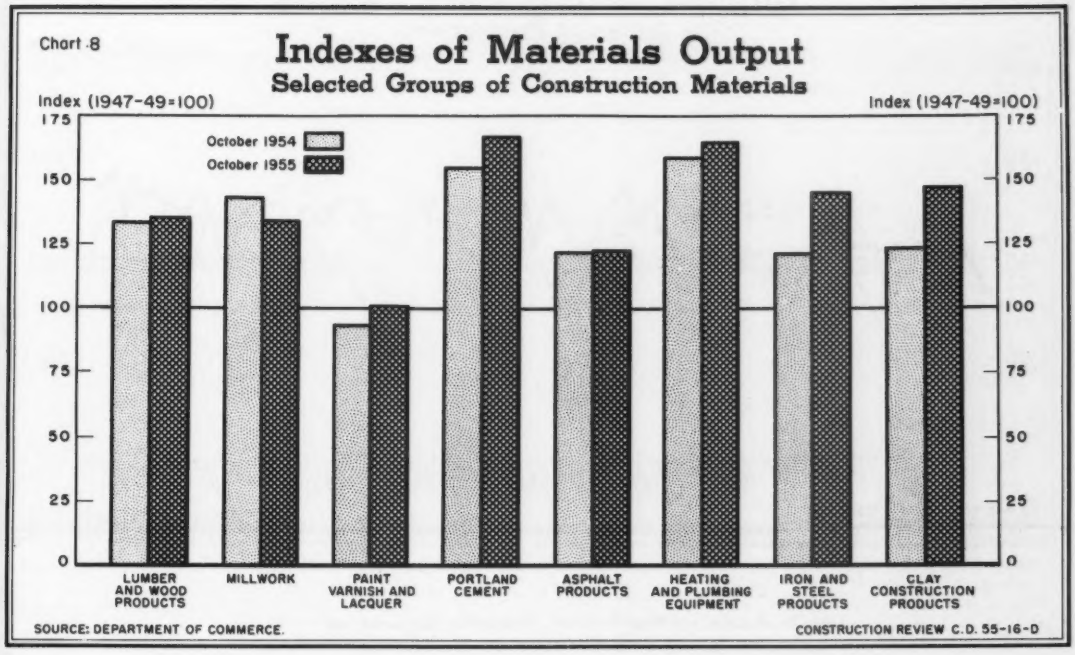


Table 27.--Construction Materials: Indexes of Output

(Monthly average 1947-49 = 100)

Materials group	Monthly Indexes												
	1954			1955									
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Lumber and wood products	133.5	127.5	124.9	117.7	116.7	136.4	129.9	136.6	142.3	119.6	146.0	139.7	135.3
Millwork	143.5	131.8	134.8	131.4	131.0	155.2	140.3	128.7	135.9	108.8	141.7	143.1	134.3
Paint, varnish, and lacquer	93.4	86.9	75.6	94.3	86.6	114.1	117.3	127.3	133.6	110.7	117.7	116.0	100.7
Portland cement	154.9	142.6	133.3	121.0	105.3	133.6	148.5	161.7	160.1	163.5	166.7	161.1	167.0
Asphalt products	122.0	104.6	68.0	71.6	79.8	125.3	125.1	121.3	146.8	107.0	146.8	126.2	122.4
Heating and plumbing equipment	158.8	127.6	112.5	115.9	114.9	141.2	129.5	130.3	143.8	116.9	180.6	[1]165.8	164.3
Iron and steel products	121.3	105.6	97.6	104.5	104.5	130.1	133.5	136.2	154.2	127.6	144.1	149.5	145.1
Clay construction products	123.3	123.7	120.6	112.8	108.1	132.2	126.0	135.0	145.6	134.3	148.6	150.5	147.1

	Quarterly Indexes					
	1954			1955		
	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Gypsum products	152.3	158.9	162.2	168.9	173.7	180.3
Plumbing fixtures	100.9	101.4	123.1	133.5	141.3	128.7

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce from data reported by various Government agencies and by private firms shown in notes to the tables following.

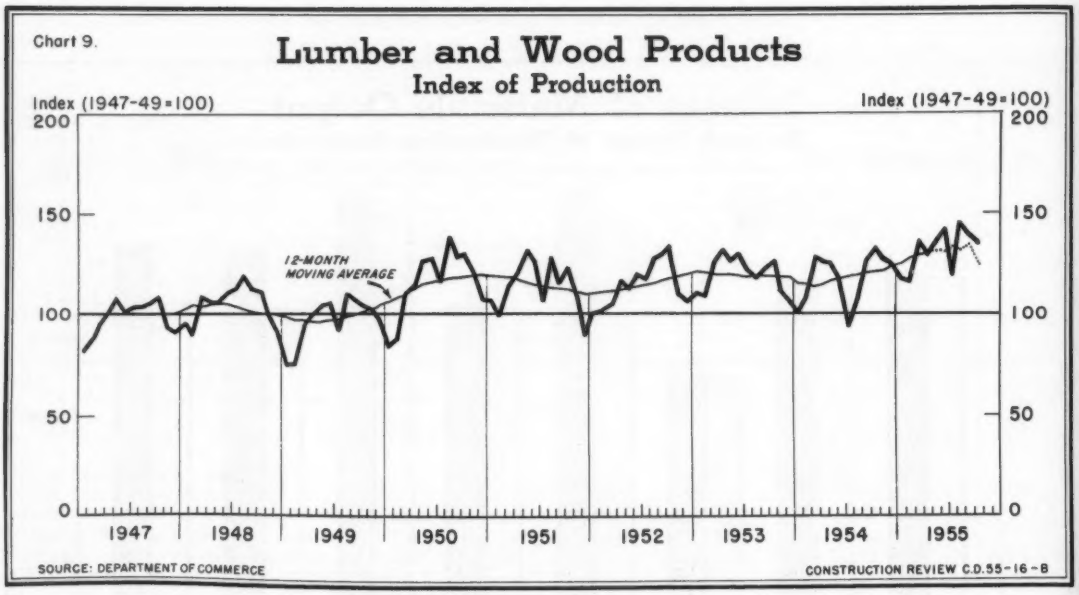


Table 28.--Lumber and Wood Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Period	Softwood lumber (*Million board feet*)			Hardwood flooring (*Thousand board feet*)			Douglas fir plywood (*Million square feet*)	Insulating boards (*Tons*)	Hardboard (*Tons*)
	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production		
1947-49 average	28,048	27,440	4,448	812,365	789,437	44,455	1,802	766,269	294,214
Year: 1952	30,477	30,578	4,980	1,004,117	1,001,672	86,938	3,051	879,655	396,219
1953	31,072	30,318	5,756	1,004,558	1,010,972	73,449	3,704	952,562	423,428
1954	29,296	29,798	5,275	1,145,118	1,139,091	68,425	3,825	1,015,813	493,407
12 months ending:									
July 1955	30,938	31,355	--	1,250,040	1,249,777	--	4,518	1,081,160	520,959
August 1955	31,659	31,906	--	1,262,397	1,259,025	--	4,726	1,093,979	525,650
September 1955	31,880	32,006	--	1,267,395	1,265,038	--	4,756	1,092,740	526,820
October 1955	31,893	31,918	--	1,268,552	1,264,831	--	4,791	1,097,153	530,303
1954: October	2,715	2,693	5,175	104,788	105,116	56,456	393	96,961	43,417
November	2,553	2,473	5,254	102,146	98,488	59,874	395	89,164	43,744
December	2,499	2,479	5,275	102,284	92,910	68,425	393	84,239	38,535
1955: January	2,309	2,311	5,238	97,476	98,885	64,016	393	94,753	43,641
February	2,320	2,293	5,284	93,925	94,946	62,945	389	86,784	39,722
March	2,734	2,819	5,205	110,093	111,090	61,076	444	97,328	46,368
April	2,629	2,754	5,121	104,293	108,160	55,183	413	87,850	44,844
May	2,802	2,827	5,107	109,546	109,787	55,200	409	92,160	46,759
June	2,946	3,047	5,007	116,072	116,682	53,454	429	81,597	45,579
July	2,464	2,592	4,869	103,278	104,894	51,788	321	91,602	44,170
August	3,038	2,962	4,952	114,156	113,495	52,424	415	102,681	46,482
September	2,871	2,756	5,066	109,338	110,585	50,483	423	95,722	44,438
October	2,728	2,605	6,665	105,945	104,909	51,644	428	101,344	46,860
	Percent change								
October, 1954-55	(1)	- 3	+29	+ 1	(1)	- 9	+ 9	+ 5	+ 8
First 10 mos. 1954-55	+11	+ 9	--	- 3	+19	--	+34	+11	+ 9

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, the Douglas Fir Plywood Association, and the Bureau of the Census. [1] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

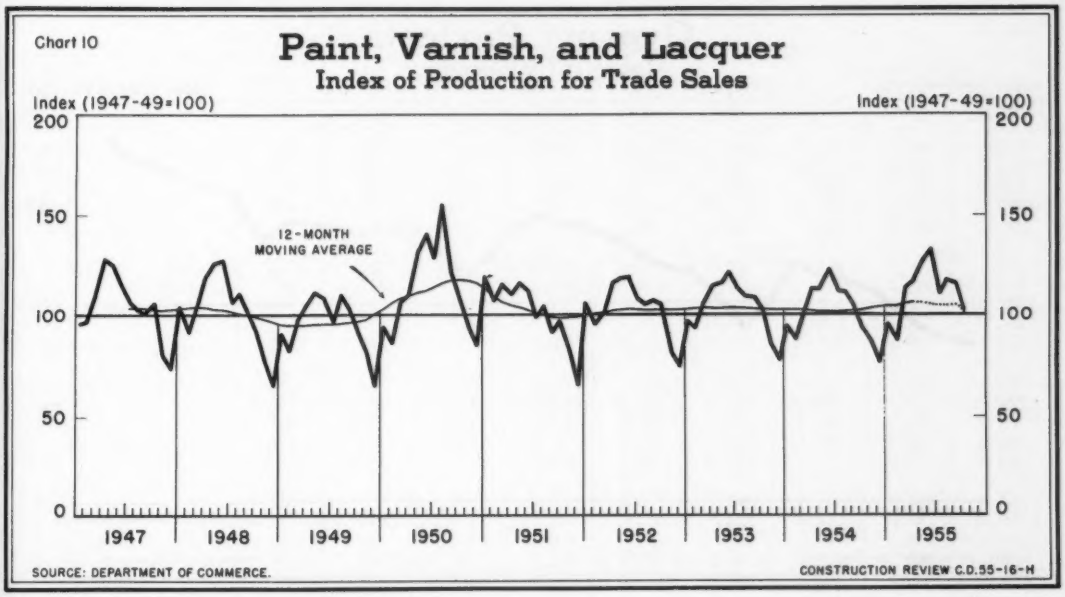


Table 29.--Millwork Products, and Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer: Production

Period	Production (*Thousands of units*)					Production for trade sales (*Thousands of gallons*)
	Douglas fir doors (panel type)	Ponderosa pine doors	Hardwood doors	Sash	Exterior frames	Paint, varnish, & lacquer
1947-49 average	5,658	3,780	3,172	11,246	4,152	266,701
Year: 1952	5,288	2,417	4,373	10,514	4,543	274,992
1953	4,070	2,487	4,783	11,419	5,072	276,326
1954	3,522	2,285	5,940	11,054	5,791	271,235
12 months ending:						
July 1955	3,606	2,385	6,958	12,862	7,065	279,174
August 1955	3,764	2,368	6,963	13,106	7,271	280,566
September 1955	3,661	2,335	6,991	12,996	7,350	283,035
October 1955	(1)	2,312	6,928	12,943	7,402	284,674
1954: October	346	229	591	1,227	629	20,752
November	377	191	553	1,128	518	19,320
December	383	209	560	1,124	537	16,775
1955: January	362	196	562	1,017	527	20,969
February	355	184	565	1,061	522	19,254
March	415	236	657	1,181	653	25,370
April	301	187	646	987	591	26,072
May	254	182	554	1,050	606	28,285
June	216	182	579	1,104	720	29,694
July	184	133	490	817	537	24,597
August	229	203	613	1,163	704	26,169
September	239	202	621	1,137	713	25,778
October	(1)	206	528	1,174	681	22,371
	Percent change					
October, 1954-55	--	-10	-11	- 4	+ 8	+ 8
First 10 mos., 1954-55	--	+ 1	+20	-21	+32	+ 6

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Fir Door Institute, the National Wood Work Manufacturers Association (whose data on ponderosa pine and hardwood doors, sash and exterior frames are only from member firms, and are not adjusted to represent full coverage), and the Bureau of the Census.

[1] Not yet available.

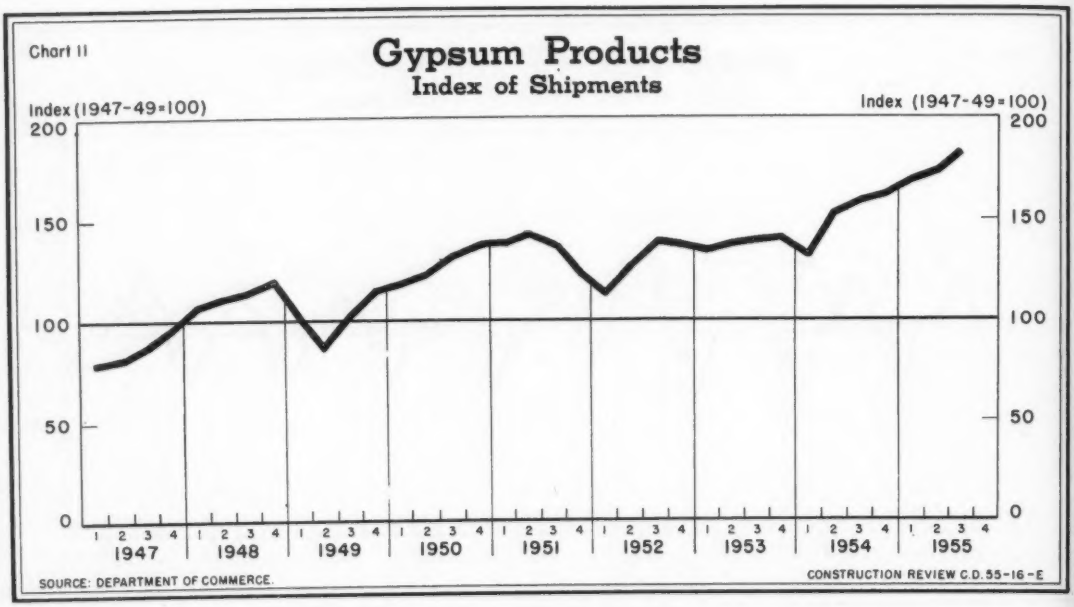


Table 30.--Portland Cement, and Asphalt and Gypsum Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Period	Production (Thousands of barrels) Portland cement	Shipments (Thousands of barrels) Portland cement	Stocks (Thousands of barrels) Portland cement	Shipments (Thousands of squares) Asphalt prepared roofing	Asphalt siding	Asphalt insulated brick siding	Asphalt and tar saturated felts	Shipments (Million square feet) Gypsum board [1]	Gypsum lath [1]
1947-49 average	200,607	199,306	11,922	61,252	3,365	2,811	17,087	2,478	2,075
Year: 1952	249,091	251,137	15,964	57,938	1,858	2,718	23,577	3,457	2,315
1953	264,022	260,889	19,231	56,703	1,557	2,794	25,778	3,757	2,435
1954	271,277	274,096	16,722	58,648	1,447	2,297	28,531	4,217	2,484
12 months ending:									
July 1955	289,503	289,852	--	63,614	1,333	2,193	32,206		
August 1955	291,666	292,848	--	64,768	1,310	2,186	32,984	4,757	2,820
September 1955	293,082	293,683	--	63,948	1,296	2,185	32,444		
October 1955	295,119	295,190	--	63,808	1,302	2,193	32,632		
1954: October	25,887	27,134	9,667	6,088	144	221	2,436		
November	23,826	22,766	10,732	5,108	125	159	2,360	1,144	642
December	22,290	16,347	16,722	3,094	86	97	1,852		
1955: January	20,231	13,520	23,434	3,190	85	93	2,091		
February	17,612	14,031	27,018	3,264	79	108	2,711	1,181	683
March	22,409	22,941	26,486	5,533	125	161	3,758		
April	24,847	25,295	26,039	6,099	98	172	2,977		
May	27,066	29,172	23,610	5,972	91	227	2,568	1,200	724
June	26,783	31,260	18,828	6,950	109	233	3,647		
July	27,332	29,467	16,720	5,225	91	200	2,312		
August	27,861	31,883	12,705	7,183	124	253	3,238	1,232	771
September	26,938	29,867	9,802	6,242	139	255	2,496		
October	27,924	28,641	8,753	5,948	150	229	2,624		
	Percent change								
October, 1954-55	+ 8	+ 6	- 9	- 2	+ 4	+ 4	+ 8	*+ 3	*+ 6
First 10 mos. 1954-55	+11	+ 7	--	+10	-12	- 5	+17	--	--

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines), and the Bureau of the Census. [1] Data reported on quarterly basis. * Change from previous quarter.

Table 31.--Portland Cement: Destination of Shipments, by State

(Thousands of barrels)

State	1955			Calendar year			12 months ending--		
	July	Aug.	Sept.	1952	1953	1954	July 1955	Aug. 1955	Sept. 1955
Alabama	323	387	354	3,883	4,260	3,943	3,929	3,968	3,947
Arizona	134	159	201	2,119	2,433	2,215	2,286	2,285	2,330
Arkansas	211	188	162	1,940	1,762	1,894	2,664	2,640	2,652
California	2,784	3,275	2,944	25,367	27,737	28,528	30,936	31,615	31,969
Colorado	340	353	335	2,826	2,941	3,285	3,381	3,387	3,385
Connecticut	319	329	297	2,977	3,194	3,258	3,340	3,397	3,398
Delaware	135	136	111	861	902	910	996	1,016	1,038
District of Columbia	119	121	128	1,156	1,249	1,324	1,368	1,361	1,373
Florida	732	774	734	6,680	7,487	8,354	9,192	9,257	9,263
Georgia	455	491	417	4,161	4,644	4,441	4,779	4,899	4,906
Idaho	97	112	105	1,116	986	1,215	1,091	1,059	974
Illinois	1,567	1,682	1,544	13,327	13,439	14,973	14,876	14,865	14,574
Indiana	878	1,073	976	6,207	6,568	6,724	7,182	7,549	7,764
Iowa	674	871	797	4,890	4,941	5,863	5,957	6,063	6,006
Kansas	794	795	671	5,939	5,801	6,576	7,373	7,482	7,400
Kentucky	390	500	417	3,621	3,354	3,026	3,100	3,301	3,416
Louisiana	555	630	693	5,869	5,728	6,292	6,690	6,731	6,760
Maine	101	110	123	692	894	857	1,033	1,021	1,020
Maryland	476	451	451	4,363	4,676	4,447	4,623	4,680	4,696
Massachusetts	488	452	472	4,347	4,351	4,180	4,893	4,917	5,004
Michigan	1,556	1,670	1,636	11,255	12,716	13,076	13,908	13,987	14,166
Minnesota	678	727	665	4,748	4,968	5,500	5,916	5,868	5,879
Mississippi	181	257	151	1,705	1,696	1,732	1,845	1,939	1,949
Missouri	806	862	800	6,319	6,796	7,556	7,590	7,659	7,666
Montana	101	114	127	1,358	949	1,019	943	936	945
Nebraska	407	418	342	2,629	3,384	3,724	3,848	3,861	3,712
Nevada	81	63	61	625	618	842	786	776	765
New Hampshire	154	164	157	451	549	827	1,103	1,172	1,230
New Jersey	924	900	923	8,084	8,581	9,164	9,277	9,285	9,338
New Mexico	168	198	153	1,645	1,860	2,111	2,158	2,188	2,164
New York	2,065	2,136	2,188	16,905	19,134	20,290	20,455	20,045	19,908
North Carolina	392	376	372	3,896	3,715	4,009	4,275	4,273	4,231
North Dakota	150	150	143	1,062	1,148	1,161	1,135	1,122	1,122
Ohio	2,210	2,156	1,677	13,021	14,286	16,003	17,587	17,895	17,419
Oklahoma	409	416	396	4,677	4,158	4,364	4,519	4,579	4,612
Oregon	255	297	258	2,902	2,445	2,081	2,252	2,337	2,377
Pennsylvania	1,740	1,744	1,907	15,055	15,234	15,108	15,693	15,815	16,078
Rhode Island	99	86	89	1,015	857	685	757	788	821
South Carolina	204	240	244	2,961	2,217	1,993	2,097	2,173	2,248
South Dakota	127	193	203	1,113	1,246	1,116	1,127	1,187	1,233
Tennessee	448	570	530	4,702	4,856	4,683	4,651	4,745	4,812
Texas	1,675	1,917	1,712	17,249	16,158	19,081	20,315	20,424	20,344
Utah	177	224	225	1,343	1,343	1,508	1,650	1,697	1,760
Vermont	33	30	36	321	300	242	281	286	291
Virginia	421	423	448	4,652	4,701	4,474	4,621	4,599	4,585
Washington	558	664	625	4,954	5,413	5,684	5,958	6,038	6,073
West Virginia	193	209	421	1,791	1,921	2,379	1,935	1,852	2,032
Wisconsin	703	778	524	5,673	6,127	5,840	6,110	6,113	5,933
Wyoming	64	63	72	561	538	585	576	580	582

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines).

Chart 12.

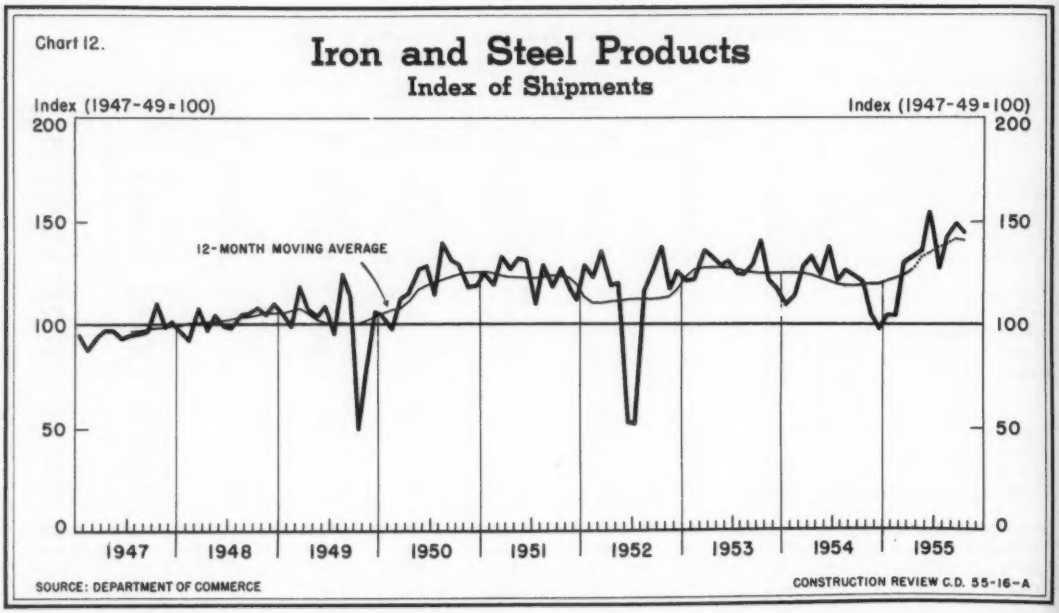


Table 32.--Iron and Steel Products: Shipments, Bookings, and Backlog

(Thousands of tons)

Period	Shipments									Shipments	Bookings	Backlog [1]
	Line pipe	Concrete reinforcing bars	Galvanized sheets	Nails	Piling	Rails	Cast-iron pipe: Pressure	Cast-iron pipe: Soil	Rigid steel conduit	Fabricated structural steel		
1947-49 average	1,975	1,523	1,669	797	309	2,167	1,075	604	226	2,248	2,105	--
Year: 1952	2,882	1,813	1,961	651	235	1,454	1,312	651	225	2,664	2,504	1,033
1953	3,507	1,849	2,291	529	343	1,954	1,286	677	221	3,117	2,787	1,010
1954	2,595	1,751	2,363	567	388	1,196	1,376	744	228	3,136	2,510	743
12 months ending:												
July 1955	2,552	1,904	2,605	641	378	1,074	1,528	839	268	2,882	3,025	--
August 1955	2,635	1,949	2,640	644	370	1,091	1,557	856	266	2,878	3,144	--
September 1955	2,705	1,984	2,699	647	377	1,123	1,598	867	269	2,902	3,276	--
October 1955	2,767	2,036	2,750	651	380	1,150	1,629	875	(2)	2,928	3,373	--
1954: October	203	150	209	49	38	59	130	68	22	258	212	763
November	132	138	197	43	31	49	118	65	23	230	195	730
December	92	123	206	32	28	40	111	55	20	224	197	743
1955: January	119	116	211	49	21	97	101	61	19	226	241	781
February	135	128	199	51	27	103	95	67	20	213	234	802
March	254	161	239	61	29	122	130	83	23	228	285	877
April	253	184	239	62	27	118	146	76	19	242	270	881
May	265	215	236	63	40	121	169	75	21	223	303	938
June	348	209	247	74	39	127	147	84	23	282	318	991
July	296	177	205	49	32	104	129	67	35	219	369	1,009
August	315	197	242	56	32	88	156	85	21	268	312	1,060
September	295	186	269	58	33	95	165	82	25	289	339	1,049
October	265	202	260	53	41	86	161	76	(2)	284	309	1,068
	Percent change											
October, 1954-55	+31	+35	+24	+ 8	+ 8	+46	+24	+11	--	+10	+46	+40
First 10 mos., 1954-55	+ 7	+19	+20	+17	- 4	- 4	+22	+21	--	- 8	+41	--

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the American Iron and Steel Institute, the National Electric Manufacturers Association, the American Institute of Steel Construction, and the Bureau of the Census. [1] Scheduled for fabrication in the next 4 months. [2] Not yet available.

Table 33.--Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments

Period	Brick, common and face (*Million brick*)		Structural clay tile (*Thousand tons*)		Vitrified clay sewer pipe (*Thousand tons*)		Hollow facing tile (*Million brick equivalent*)		Glazed & unglazed floor & wall tile (*Thousand square feet*)	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
1947-49 average	5,504	5,324	1,286	1,231	1,451	1,375	357	341	104,800	101,088
Year: 1952	5,889	5,642	977	994	1,649	1,548	413	389	132,085	123,267
1953	5,875	5,771	990	922	1,655	1,563	456	444	137,429	134,375
1954	6,153	6,119	953	895	1,702	1,636	457	444	141,066	139,515
12 months ending:										
July 1955	6,734	6,713	881	854	1,814	1,787	444	435	164,073	165,852
August 1955	6,828	6,806	870	854	1,838	1,818	443	435	168,967	170,453
September 1955	6,928	6,895	858	851	1,865	1,848	442	433	173,535	174,912
October 1955	7,024	6,962	849	846	1,889	1,867	439	427	178,694	179,557
1954: October	561	571	81	79	148	153	37	38	12,308	12,272
November	557	549	80	72	149	140	40	38	12,477	12,222
December	519	464	69	64	151	122	42	39	12,880	12,358
1955: January	468	412	66	64	132	101	36	33	13,973	13,258
February	446	405	65	60	134	109	33	33	13,111	12,528
March	563	568	72	69	163	149	40	39	15,338	15,807
April	569	605	65	70	143	147	32	31	14,550	14,820
May	614	652	68	72	157	178	34	34	15,077	15,491
June	654	684	77	77	179	197	37	38	15,936	16,936
July	623	627	73	70	152	171	35	34	14,414	15,036
August	677	680	73	81	173	193	39	40	16,504	16,969
September	676	678	69	74	183	188	37	36	16,967	17,215
October	657	638	72	74	172	172	34	32	17,467	16,917
	Percent change									
October, 1954-55	+17	+12	-11	- 6	+16	+12	- 8	-16	+42	+38
First 10 mos., 1954-55	+17	+17	-13	- 6	+13	+17	- 5	- 5	+32	+35

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census.

Table 34.--Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments, by Census Region [1]

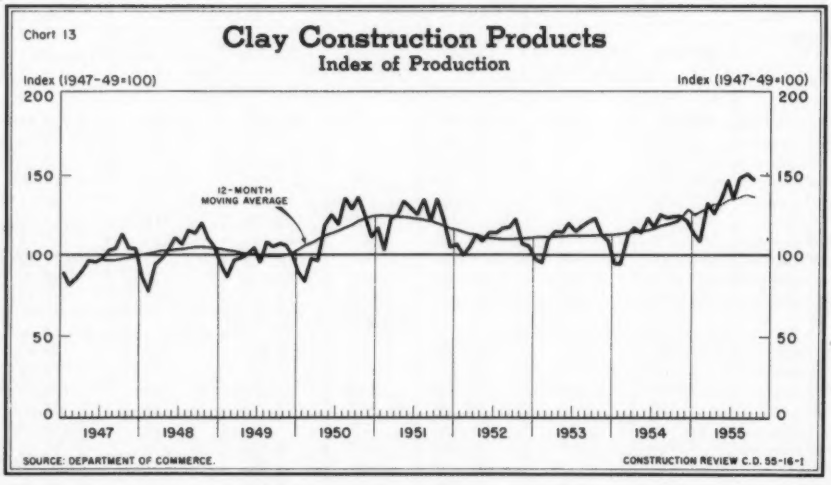
Census region	PRODUCTION				SHIPMENTS			
	October 1955		First 10 months 1955		October 1955		First 10 months 1955	
	Quantity	Percent change from Oct. 1954	Quantity	Percent change, 1954-55	Quantity	Percent change from Oct. 1954	Quantity	Percent change, 1954-55
	Brick, common and face (*thousands*)							
U. S. TOTAL	656,868	+17	5,947,297	+17	637,593	+12	5,950,810	+17
New England	11,650	+ 3	105,661	+ 3	11,204	-14	99,955	(2)
Middle Atlantic	99,245	+ 2	916,537	+ 2	101,347	(2)	956,009	+ 8
East North Central	150,310	+15	1,360,039	+13	142,903	+ 5	1,343,882	+ 9
West North Central	35,521	+19	313,911	+30	33,883	+22	300,912	+25
South Atlantic	149,594	+15	1,444,461	+20	154,329	+18	1,495,399	+24
East South Central	60,498	+22	555,169	+21	60,861	+15	561,682	+20
West South Central	85,845	+46	720,796	+30	77,923	+31	679,123	+23
Mountain	23,652	+25	209,570	+26	21,984	+13	197,297	+15
Pacific	40,553	+17	321,153	+28	33,159	+13	316,551	+24
	Structural clay tile (*tons*)							
U. S. TOTAL	72,165	-11	701,236	-13	73,672	- 7	710,457	- 6
Middle Atlantic	5,905	-19	67,611	- 3	7,208	-14	72,691	+ 5
East North Central	10,326	-24	112,766	+ 1	12,275	+14	121,156	+13
West North Central	8,112	-43	92,538	-35	10,379	-33	97,060	-27
South Atlantic	15,004	+ 1	128,744	-15	13,491	- 9	138,737	- 1
East South Central	4,454	-53	56,069	-33	4,311	-50	57,913	-20
West South Central	25,957	+27	224,619	+ 4	23,266	+23	203,786	- 4
Mountain & Pacific	2,407	+49	18,889	-33	2,742	+ 9	19,114	-27
	Vitrified clay sewer pipe (*tons*)							
U. S. TOTAL	171,814	+16	1,587,848	+13	171,749	+12	1,603,618	+17
Middle Atlantic	18,678	+12	173,597	+ 6	16,651	+ 9	163,108	+13
East North Central	72,278	+ 3	647,330	+17	70,601	+15	661,522	+19
West North Central	16,510	+ 3	165,035	+ 4	16,785	+ 8	166,785	+ 4
South Atlantic	13,767	+37	127,759	+32	13,538	+29	129,392	+32
E. & W. South Central	22,131	+ 8	209,198	+ 7	24,887	+17	210,413	+13
Mountain	4,165	+13	37,238	- 1	3,831	- 2	35,652	- 2
Pacific	24,285	+15	227,691	+16	25,456	+ 1	236,746	+20

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2. [2] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 35.--Heating and Plumbing Equipment: Shipments and Stocks

Period	Gas water heaters (Thousands of units)		C. I. convectors and radiators (Thousand square feet)		Warm air furnaces (Thousands of units)		Floor and wall furnaces (Thousands of units)		Residential oil burners [1] (Thousands of units)
	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments
1947-49 average	1,818	67	50,980	4,377	794	69	552	44	541
Year: 1952	1,996	74	36,898	3,859	928	106	548	59	505
1953	2,274	128	31,667	4,650	997	148	552	108	541
1954	2,236	103	28,386	5,434	1,132	130	550	74	494
12 months ending:									
July 1955	2,476	--	28,446	--	1,277	--	582	--	538
August 1955	2,533	--	28,746	--	1,311	--	581	--	529
September 1955	2,556	--	28,855	--	1,327	--	578	--	535
October 1955	2,577	--	(2)	--	1,339	--	573	--	528
1954: October	198	91	3,354	5,915	138	122	76	63	69
November	176	95	2,700	5,400	108	121	60	59	42
December	163	103	1,956	5,434	81	130	45	74	29
1955: January	200	97	1,675	5,876	85	137	39	76	39
February	215	94	1,970	6,106	80	145	38	81	39
March	249	103	2,419	6,416	87	176	41	81	39
April	232	94	2,035	6,991	92	189	40	82	39
May	217	123	1,732	7,898	100	200	39	83	40
June	215	111	2,208	7,903	117	213	39	85	41
July	207	91	1,865	(2)	108	194	38	87	44
August	260	69	3,615	6,378	164	187	57	85	47
September	224	93	3,326	5,845	164	187	65	71	-68
October	219	91	(2)	(2)	150	172	71	61	62
	Percent change								
October, 1954-55	+11	0	--	--	+ 9	+41	- 7	- 3	-10
First 10 mos. 54-55	+18	--	--	--	+22	--	+ 5	--	+11

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. [1] Sold separately. [2] Not yet available.



NOTE: In the quarterly table Imports and Exports of Selected Construction Materials (last shown in the November 1955 issue, page 46, table 37), some of the data were shown incorrectly. The items, and the correct figures, appear below.

Item	Unit of quantity	IMPORTS			
		Year		First 6 months	
		1953	1954	1954	1955
Wallboard (wood fibre origin) [1]	Ton	2,058	*435	*195	*352
Hardboard [1]	Ton	n.a.	24,716	10,917	15,907
Insulating board	Ton	4,031	*3,711	*1,977	2,467

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. *Corrected data. [1] Future presentations of the complete quarterly table (appears next in the February issue) will continue to show these items separately. Export data for Wallboard are the same as given in previous issues; figures for Hardboard exports are not available.

Table 36.--Contract Construction: Employment by Type of Contractor

Period	All contractors	Building contractors							Nonbuilding contractors		
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors					All nonbuilding	Highway and street	Other nonbuilding
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work	Other trades			
	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES *(in thousands)*										
Year: 1948	2,169.0	1,753.0	807.0	946.0	238.2	124.9	123.2	459.8	416.0	172.1	243.8
1949	2,165.0	1,736.0	779.0	957.0	241.7	123.4	122.1	469.5	428.0	178.1	250.3
1950	2,333.0	1,885.0	844.0	1,041.0	263.1	130.8	123.4	524.0	448.0	183.0	265.2
1951	2,603.0	2,109.0	957.6	1,151.7	286.9	155.7	140.5	568.7	493.0	201.3	291.9
1952	2,634.0	2,119.0	948.3	1,170.8	287.7	156.5	155.7	570.9	514.0	209.4	305.0
1953	2,622.0	2,109.0	934.0	1,175.1	288.9	148.1	159.7	578.4	513.0	214.9	297.8
1954	2,527.0	2,021.0	848.8	1,172.7	283.4	141.4	156.5	591.5	506.0	217.4	288.2
1954: Oct.	2,652.0	2,099.0	877.2	1,221.9	291.1	148.4	155.5	626.9	553.0	252.6	300.7
Nov.	2,598.0	2,074.0	862.6	1,211.7	288.1	144.2	155.4	624.0	524.0	231.2	292.6
Dec.	2,426.0	1,975.0	801.9	1,173.4	283.1	135.5	153.7	601.1	451.0	186.0	265.2
1955: Jan.	2,237.0	1,839.0	733.3	1,106.1	270.6	121.6	148.5	565.4	398.0	152.6	244.9
Feb.	2,169.0	1,780.0	694.6	1,085.6	264.7	121.7	144.6	554.6	389.0	147.4	241.2
Mar.	2,255.0	1,844.0	723.9	1,119.9	266.3	129.2	143.6	580.8	411.0	161.9	249.0
Apr.	2,399.0	1,935.0	759.8	1,174.8	272.5	140.2	143.8	618.3	464.0	196.4	267.3
May	2,526.0	2,013.0	789.9	1,222.8	279.3	147.8	145.6	650.1	513.0	234.7	278.6
June	2,615.0	2,067.0	819.7	1,247.2	284.0	153.5	148.5	661.2	548.0	262.3	286.1
July	2,701.0	2,134.0	855.5	1,278.8	289.9	161.5	150.1	677.3	567.0	272.3	295.1
Aug.	2,746.0	2,170.0	868.2	1,301.6	297.3	164.1	150.4	689.8	576.0	277.9	298.2
Sept.	2,748.0	2,164.0	851.4	1,312.3	300.0	161.1	152.3	698.9	584.0	279.5	304.0
Oct.	2,682.0	2,117.0	826.3	1,291.0	296.3	157.2	152.6	684.9	565.0	266.6	298.7
	Percent change										
Sept.-Oct. 1955	-2.4	-2.2	-2.9	-1.6	-1.2	-2.4	(1)	-2.0	-3.3	-4.6	-1.7
Oct. 1954-55	+1.1	+ .9	-5.8	+5.7	+1.8	+5.9	-1.9	+9.3	+2.2	+5.5	- .7

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Change of less than one-tenth of 1 percent.

Table 37.--Contract Construction: Indexes of Employment (Seasonally Adjusted), and Indexes of Weekly Man-Hours

(1947-49 = 100)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual average
	INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT *(seasonally adjusted)* [1]												
1948	100.8	95.8	98.2	100.1	101.6	103.9	104.6	105.2	105.6	106.0	106.9	107.0	103.1
1949	105.7	103.2	102.0	101.2	101.0	101.3	102.6	103.5	104.5	104.2	104.1	101.8	102.9
1950	100.8	99.9	100.1	103.3	106.3	111.1	114.4	116.5	117.6	119.0	119.7	117.5	110.9
1951	120.1	119.9	122.2	123.3	123.4	124.3	125.2	125.6	125.1	126.2	123.9	124.6	123.8
1952	123.6	124.8	123.1	123.0	123.5	125.8	126.4	127.1	127.5	125.9	126.0	125.2	125.2
1953	124.4	124.7	124.7	124.0	123.5	123.4	124.1	124.5	125.8	126.2	125.2	124.1	124.6
1954	119.0	120.7	122.1	121.3	120.8	120.1	120.4	120.3	119.8	118.9	119.8	117.6	120.0
1955	116.8	114.5	117.7	118.7	120.0	119.4	121.0	120.8	122.0	120.2			
	INDEXES OF WEEKLY MAN-HOURS												
1948	89.6	81.3	86.7	95.0	102.2	111.9	115.1	117.3	116.2	113.3	106.6	105.4	103.4
1949	94.2	88.9	89.2	95.0	103.1	106.8	110.5	114.2	111.5	111.4	104.4	94.9	102.0
1950	84.6	79.5	83.7	95.8	106.1	116.7	122.1	129.5	126.1	128.9	123.9	112.7	109.1
1951	106.4	99.3	105.4	116.9	126.4	131.8	137.7	141.1	138.5	139.8	124.2	121.6	124.1
1952	111.1	112.3	108.3	117.5	125.4	136.8	138.9	143.2	144.0	139.9	128.2	123.9	127.5
1953	109.1	108.7	109.1	115.8	122.6	130.4	132.0	137.2	131.7	136.7	126.7	117.2	123.1
1954	95.5	102.8	106.4	112.1	118.2	124.6	127.5	129.8	123.8	123.5	118.2	108.9	115.9
1955	96.1	92.4	100.6	106.1	117.2	122.3	128.7	129.3	132.3	125.2			

Source: Department of Labor. Federal Reserve Board. [1] Indexes for months before January 1953 are based on seasonally adjusted employment data derived by the

Table 38.--Contract Construction: Employment, by State

State	Number of employees (in thousands)											Percent change, Oct. 1954-55
	1955								1952	1953	1954	
	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.--	Oct.	Oct.	Oct.	Oct.	
Alabama [1]	32.1	32.1	33.8	34.7	35.4	35.4	34.4	34.4	35.7	35.0	32.9	+ 5
Arizona	18.7	18.9	19.2	19.0	19.1	17.9	19.8	20.2	16.6	17.7	18.3	+10
Arkansas	15.5	15.8	15.7	16.2	17.0	17.3	16.7	16.5	24.2	18.7	15.0	+10
California	255.4	262.5	268.3	267.7	283.0	291.4	290.2	280.7	271.2	266.8	264.0	+ 6
Colorado [1]	26.5	28.6	30.5	32.1	30.8	30.4	30.4	29.8	29.8	27.8	28.4	+ 5
Connecticut [2]	37.6	41.4	45.5	48.0	49.5	49.3	49.8	(3)	43.9	43.2	41.9	--
Delaware [3]	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
District of Columbia	17.1	18.0	18.7	18.3	18.1	18.8	19.3	19.7	18.9	18.8	19.3	+ 2
Florida	78.4	79.2	79.7	81.2	84.4	87.7	85.6	84.8	79.7	86.2	81.9	+ 4
Georgia	52.3	52.6	54.5	56.9	57.1	58.0	55.6	54.7	47.2	52.3	52.1	+ 5
Idaho	6.3	7.4	8.5	10.0	10.1	10.5	10.1	9.0	11.2	9.4	9.9	- 9
Illinois	145.5	154.7	167.7	171.8	175.2	176.9	174.6	173.7	177.0	172.7	175.1	- 1
Indiana [1]	55.8	61.2	65.3	70.8	74.2	77.0	77.0	76.3	68.8	64.6	62.0	+23
Iowa [1]	25.4	29.1	32.5	36.5	36.9	36.6	36.2	33.9	34.3	37.1	37.5	-10
Kansas	32.7	35.5	36.0	38.2	40.0	41.4	39.9	39.6	37.1	38.6	37.5	+ 6
Kentucky [3]	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Louisiana	45.3	45.5	45.8	47.2	47.4	47.8	47.3	47.8	57.1	59.5	51.9	- 8
Maine	9.7	11.4	14.6	15.3	15.8	15.6	14.6	14.6	13.5	14.5	14.5	+ 1
Maryland	55.9	59.5	62.4	63.4	66.0	66.8	69.6	70.9	62.8	63.7	61.5	+15
Massachusetts	66.4	73.9	79.4	83.6	86.7	87.1	91.4	89.0	77.3	76.4	78.4	+14
Michigan	95.1	100.1	106.2	108.1	106.7	112.4	116.3	114.8	116.6	123.9	123.2	- 7
Minnesota	42.9	49.2	58.6	65.3	67.9	71.6	70.7	69.1	55.9	56.5	60.4	+14
Mississippi	16.8	17.2	19.1	19.0	18.9	19.2	18.9	(3)	19.8	20.4	16.6	--
Missouri	65.7	67.6	68.3	71.2	76.3	75.3	72.8	69.8	64.6	66.9	68.8	+ 1
Montana	6.5	7.5	10.1	10.7	11.7	12.4	12.5	11.5	11.7	11.4	12.0	- 4
Nebraska	17.9	21.2	24.7	26.0	28.1	28.5	28.5	(3)	21.1	22.3	23.7	--
Nevada	9.7	9.1	9.6	9.7	10.4	10.6	10.3	9.6	7.6	7.8	9.0	+ 7
New Hampshire	7.7	8.9	9.7	10.4	10.7	10.4	10.1	10.1	7.6	7.9	10.6	- 5
New Jersey	83.9	91.3	99.0	101.4	105.1	106.7	107.7	109.5	104.7	99.9	97.5	+12
New Mexico	13.9	14.7	15.5	16.1	16.0	16.0	15.8	15.0	14.4	16.2	15.1	- 1
New York	203.1	217.7	232.9	240.0	248.0	249.9	252.7	250.6	231.5	242.2	246.0	+ 2
North Carolina [1]	49.3	49.9	52.6	54.4	53.8	53.4	52.9	52.0	53.6	51.6	50.0	+ 4
North Dakota	6.0	8.2	10.3	12.2	12.2	12.7	12.5	(3)	11.0	11.0	13.1	--
Ohio	127.4	136.9	145.3	154.3	163.5	167.8	165.3	162.4	149.5	166.4	161.1	+ 1
Oklahoma [1]	31.4	32.5	32.1	33.6	34.8	34.3	33.5	31.7	34.6	31.7	31.1	+ 2
Oregon	19.4	20.5	23.8	23.8	27.5	29.8	28.8	27.4	28.2	26.7	25.2	+ 9
Pennsylvania	158.8	175.1	189.1	196.5	203.4	202.3	209.2	205.1	196.4	201.9	190.3	+ 8
Rhode Island	15.7	17.0	17.2	17.5	17.9	18.3	19.0	17.7	17.6	16.0	17.7	0
South Carolina	34.2	35.6	36.4	37.9	38.7	39.4	37.9	36.9	63.1	45.8	38.1	- 3
South Dakota	6.7	8.2	9.7	10.2	10.3	9.9	9.1	9.2	9.9	11.4	11.1	-17
Tennessee	52.2	53.1	54.5	55.4	55.4	55.2	54.6	53.7	52.1	57.2	61.0	-12
Texas	162.4	162.7	164.2	169.1	170.4	170.7	164.1	161.1	172.9	155.3	152.0	+ 6
Utah	11.0	13.1	15.1	16.7	17.2	17.0	17.0	16.5	14.0	12.4	14.0	+18
Vermont	3.0	3.6	4.5	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.1	4.3	4.9	4.8	+ 6
Virginia	57.1	59.3	60.1	61.2	62.4	62.8	62.3	62.1	60.8	60.9	62.4	(4)
Washington [1]	42.4	45.7	48.6	51.0	52.7	53.4	52.3	49.2	48.3	50.1	51.7	- 5
West Virginia	15.2	16.2	17.2	19.5	21.2	23.6	22.8	21.8	21.0	25.0	19.4	+12
Wisconsin	47.3	50.8	56.2	60.4	63.5	65.7	66.4	65.8	57.9	56.0	57.8	+14
Wyoming	4.2	4.4	5.8	6.5	7.2	7.3	7.3	6.7	8.1	7.0	7.1	- 6

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Revised statistics; not strictly comparable with previously published data. [2] Includes a small number of employees in mining. [3] Not available. [4] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 39.--Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas

Area	Number of employees *(in thousands)*											Percent change, Oct. 1954-55
	1955								1952	1953	1954	
	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Oct.	Oct.	
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N.Y. ..	4.8	5.4	6.3	6.8	6.6	7.0	6.9	6.9	7.4	8.0	8.6	-20
Albuquerque, N. Mex.	4.7	4.9	5.6	6.0	6.3	6.1	6.2	5.8	4.6	4.6	5.0	+16
Atlanta, Ga.	18.0	18.3	19.4	20.5	20.6	21.7	21.1	20.4	14.4	16.1	18.0	+13
Baltimore, Md.	34.4	36.3	38.0	38.1	39.7	40.7	42.8	43.8	37.2	41.0	38.3	+14
Baton Rouge, La.*	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.7	(1)	(1)	6.3	-10
Binghamton, N.Y.	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.0	0
Birmingham, Ala.[2]	9.7	10.1	10.8	11.6	12.1	12.1	11.9	11.8	10.4	11.4	10.2	+16
Boise, Idaho	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.1	1.7	0
Boston, Mass.	36.7	41.5	44.9	47.6	51.2	50.9	53.5	51.5	45.3	45.5	41.7	+24
Bridgeport, Conn.[3]	4.5	5.0	5.2	5.6	6.1	6.2	6.1	(1)	5.3	5.4	5.4	--
Buffalo, N.Y.	13.6	15.7	17.5	18.5	19.8	19.4	20.3	19.3	19.9	21.3	21.0	- 8
Casper, Wyo.	.8	.9	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	.9	1.4	1.1	1.5	-40
Charleston, S. C.	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1	3.6	+14
Charleston, W. Va.	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.6	6.3	5.9	4.3	+ 7
Charlotte, N. C.	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	6.5	6.2	6.0	-13
Chattanooga, Tenn.[2]	4.8	4.5	4.7	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.9	- 4
Chicago, Ill.	99.6	104.8	110.9	113.1	115.5	117.3	117.0	116.3	110.1	113.9	111.2	+ 5
Denver, Colo.	13.4	14.4	15.4	16.1	15.8	15.8	15.8	(1)	18.4	17.7	16.7	--
Des Moines, Iowa	5.1	5.5	6.0	6.6	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.4	4.2	5.1	6.5	- 2
Detroit, Mich.*	56.9	60.0	62.4	63.1	61.0	65.8	68.9	67.9	(1)	70.8	73.9	- 8
Duluth, Minn.	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.6	2.6	+15
Evansville, Ind.*	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.1	3.6	3.8	- 3
Fargo, N. D.*	1.1	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.3	(1)	2.0	2.5	- 8
Fort Wayne, Ind.*	2.6	2.9	2.6	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.1	2.9	4.1	3.7	3.4	-15
Great Falls, Mont.*	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	(1)	1.6	1.7	+ 6
Harrisburg, Pa.	6.9	7.7	7.8	8.4	8.4	7.9	8.2	8.1	8.4	7.9	8.5	- 5
Hartford, Conn.[3]	8.1	8.9	9.3	9.7	9.9	10.0	9.8	(1)	9.5	9.6	9.4	--
Indianapolis, Ind.	8.6	8.8	9.5	10.3	10.4	11.1	11.2	11.0	13.3	11.8	9.1	+21
Jacksonville, Fla.[2]	9.5	9.3	9.1	8.5	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.3	8.9	10.0	- 9
Kansas City, Mo.	19.0	19.4	18.7	19.4	19.1	18.9	19.1	(1)	22.4	21.8	16.8	--
Knoxville, Tenn.[2]	12.5	12.4	13.6	12.6	10.8	10.4	9.0	7.7	8.0	13.5	18.2	-58
Lewiston, Maine	.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.3	0
Little Rock-N. Little Rock, Ark...	5.2	5.6	6.3	5.9	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.4	5.0	4.7	5.2	+23
Los Angeles, Calif.	123.3	125.4	126.2	128.6	130.4	133.4	133.4	124.3	116.0	125.8	120.8	+ 3
Louisville, Ky.*	12.8	12.9	13.8	14.2	15.0	16.2	15.2	(1)	(1)	(1)	15.9	--
Manchester, N. H.	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.4	1.6	2.2	0
Memphis, Tenn.	9.9	10.1	10.7	11.9	11.9	12.2	12.5	12.4	11.1	10.0	9.9	+25
Miami, Fla.[2]	23.8	23.9	23.3	24.2	25.0	26.0	26.6	26.3	18.3	21.8	22.5	+17
Milwaukee, Wis.*	18.2	19.6	20.9	21.8	22.8	23.7	24.0	24.6	(1)	(1)	20.3	+21
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.	25.2	30.1	35.2	37.9	38.9	40.4	40.6	38.9	31.6	32.9	34.3	+13
Mobile, Ala.*[2]	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6	(1)	5.0	4.2	+10
Nashville, Tenn.[3]	6.6	6.9	7.5	7.9	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.3	(1)	8.9	8.0	+ 4
Nassau-Suffolk Counties, N.Y, ..	26.1	28.2	29.4	30.2	30.1	30.2	30.0	28.5	(1)	28.7	29.0	- 2
Newark-Jersey City, N.J.*	26.4	28.7	32.2	33.2	33.7	33.4	33.6	35.5	(1)	31.7	29.6	+20
New Bedford, Mass.	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	+ 8
New Britain, Conn.[3]	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	(1)	1.3	1.3	1.3	--
New Haven, Conn.[3]	5.0	5.4	5.7	6.0	6.3	6.6	6.5	(1)	6.4	5.8	6.0	--
New Orleans, La.	20.1	20.1	20.3	20.8	21.0	21.0	21.0	20.6	21.3	21.3	20.9	- 1
New York City, N. Y.	99.3	101.9	107.0	109.4	110.7	111.5	114.0	111.2	103.5	106.0	104.5	+ 6
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.*	11.2	11.5	11.4	12.0	12.2	12.5	12.4	12.2	11.3	12.7	11.9	+ 3
Oklahoma City, Okla.[2]	9.9	10.5	10.8	11.3	11.2	11.2	10.7	10.5	10.0	8.8	9.4	+12
Omaha, Nebr.	6.9	7.3	8.3	7.3	8.7	8.9	9.0	(1)	8.5	9.3	9.0	--
Phoenix, Ariz.	10.2	10.4	10.4	10.0	10.2	9.2	10.4	10.7	8.0	8.5	9.6	+11
Pittsburgh, Pa.	35.9	40.8	42.4	43.8	45.6	45.9	48.1	47.2	(1)	45.3	37.8	+25
Portland, Maine	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.2	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.7	2.9	3.7	4.0	- 3
Portland, Oreg.[2]	11.7	12.2	14.0	12.9	15.3	16.0	15.9	15.3	14.8	14.7	14.6	+ 5
Providence, R. I.	13.9	15.0	15.3	15.5	15.7	16.2	16.8	15.7	15.6	14.2	15.7	0
Racine, Wis.*	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.2	(1)	(1)	2.1	+ 5
Reno, Nev.	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.3	0
Richmond, Va.	9.1	9.8	9.9	10.1	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.7	11.2	11.0	9.6	+11

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 39.--Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas--Continued

Area	Number of employees *(in thousands)*											Percent change, Oct. 1954-55
	1955								1952	1953	1954	
	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Oct.	Oct.	
Rochester, N. Y.	8.0	8.8	8.9	8.2	10.7	10.9	10.5	10.2	8.3	9.1	10,3	- 1
St. Louis, Mo.*	36.9	37.4	37.1	37.5	38.6	39.5	39.1	38.1	(1)	(1)	43.7	-13
Salt Lake City, Utah	7.2	7.6	7.7	8.3	8.6	10.2	10.7	10.5	7.6	6.9	8.4	+25
San Diego, Calif.	12.6	12.8	12.9	12.3	13.3	13.1	12.9	12.6	15.9	13.7	12.0	+ 5
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	53.4	55.8	57.8	61.2	63.1	64.6	64.4	64.8	65.8	60.4	60.5	+ 7
Savannah, Ga.	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.6	4.2	4.2	2.8	- 7
Seattle, Wash.	13.6	14.4	15.0	15.1	15.3	15.6	15.6	(1)	13.2	13.0	14.2	--
Spokane, Wash.	3.1	3.9	3.9	4.5	4.9	5.2	5.2	(1)	4.6	4.5	4.5	--
Springfield-Holyoke, Mass.	4.3	4.8	4.9	5.4	5.9	6.3	6.5	6.3	5.1	4.1	5.6	+13
Stamford, Conn.[3]	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	(1)	3.3	3.4	3.4	--
Syracuse, N. Y.	5.4	6.0	6.7	7.7	6.9	7.2	7.3	6.7	7.7	8.1	7.7	-13
Tacoma, Wash.[2]	3.3	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.8	3.6	+28
Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.	12.7	12.8	12.9	13.0	13.3	13.4	13.3	13.5	12.9	12.6	13.3	+ 2
Topeka, Kans.	2.7	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.4	2.9	3.0	+33
Tucson, Ariz.	3.8	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.5	5.0	3.8	3.9	+15
Tulsa, Okla.[2]	8.5	9.1	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.5	7.6	7.3	7.8	+ 9
Utica-Rome, N. Y.	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.4	3.4	4.0	3.2	-25
Washington, D. C.	37.0	39.0	39.8	39.8	40.0	41.4	42.1	42.1	38.4	38.5	40.4	+ 4
Waterbury, Conn.[3]	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	3.1	(1)	2.2	2.1	2.1	--
Westchester Co., N. Y.*	13.4	15.0	15.7	16.5	16.9	16.4	16.5	16.9	(1)	(1)	16.2	+ 4
Wheeling-Steubenville, W. Va.	3.3	3.7	3.9	4.3	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.0	4.0	3.9	+13
Wichita, Kans.	7.6	8.0	8.1	8.4	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.2	6.6	7.3	8.5	- 4
Worcester, Mass.	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.4	3.4	4.2	4.0	3.6	- 6

Source: Department of Labor. * During 1955 this table was expanded to include data for 14 additional areas. Henceforth, the first appearance of other areas will be noted with an asterisk. Evansville, Indiana is shown for the first time in this issue. [1]Not available. [2] Revised series; not strictly comparable with previously published data. [3] Includes a few employees in mining.

Chart 14

Hours and Earnings of Workers
In Contract Construction

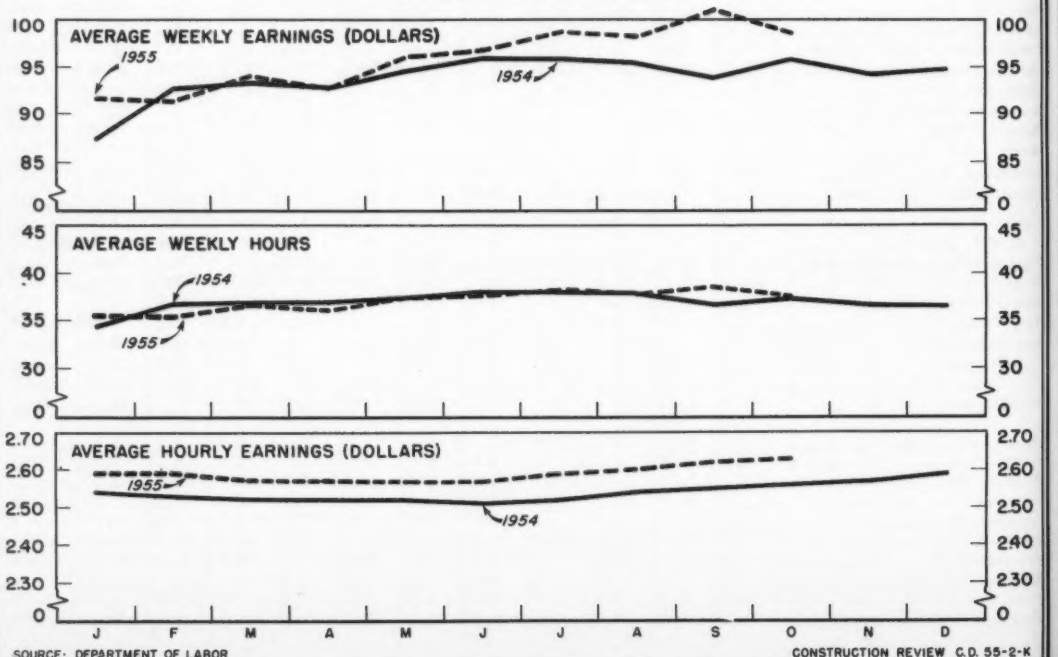


Table 40.--Contract Construction: Hours and Gross Earnings of Construction Workers

Period	All construction	Building construction							Nonbuilding construction		
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors					All nonbuilding	Highway and street	Other nonbuilding
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work	Other trades			
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Year: 1953	$91.61	$91.76	$87.75	$94.79	$98.30	$87.10	$111.61	$91.04	$90.27	$85.28	$93.85
1954	93.98	94.12	89.41	98.01	102.71	90.39	112.71	93.19	92.86	86.88	97.36
1954: October	95.74	96.26	91.62	99.46	103.63	92.75	115.05	94.87	94.13	86.62	100.53
November	94.32	94.15	89.61	97.02	100.10	90.37	112.18	93.90	94.30	88.94	98.55
December	94.28	95.40	90.83	98.28	107.20	91.12	113.30	91.77	89.47	80.51	96.08
1955: January	91.69	93.02	88.55	96.10	105.64	86.72	113.00	88.78	85.01	76.70	90.16
February	91.43	91.96	85.59	95.55	103.40	90.05	111.25	89.24	88.31	78.79	94.11
March	94.06	94.42	89.14	97.92	103.40	92.38	113.10	93.37	91.48	83.21	97.22
April	92.52	93.10	87.40	97.10	103.22	90.25	112.81	92.92	89.39	81.92	95.37
May	96.12	96.52	90.27	100.74	105.26	94.87	114.17	97.55	94.07	90.03	97.86
June	96.89	96.89	90.14	101.65	105.64	95.39	115.35	98.36	96.41	93.93	98.55
July	98.94	98.95	92.00	103.60	108.39	97.02	118.31	100.64	99.36	97.22	101.18
August	98.02	97.99	92.23	102.03	107.34	96.72	118.60	97.73	99.01	96.75	101.15
September	100.87	100.61	93.61	104.90	109.80	99.25	120.90	101.28	102.29	102.13	102.75
October	98.63	98.01	91.19	102.48	108.96	97.02	121.60	97.54	99.84	97.13	102.31
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS											
Year: 1953	37.7	37.0	37.5	36.6	38.1	34.7	39.3	35.7	40.3	41.2	39.6
1954	37.0	36.2	36.2	36.3	37.9	34.5	38.6	35.3	40.2	40.6	39.9
1954: October	37.4	36.6	36.5	36.7	38.1	35.0	39.0	35.8	40.4	40.1	40.7
November	36.7	35.8	35.7	35.8	36.8	34.1	37.9	35.3	40.3	40.8	39.9
December	36.4	36.0	35.9	36.0	38.7	34.0	38.8	34.5	38.4	37.8	38.9
1955: January	35.4	35.1	35.0	35.2	38.0	32.6	38.7	33.5	36.8	36.7	36.8
February	35.3	34.7	34.1	35.0	37.6	33.6	38.1	33.3	37.9	37.7	38.1
March	36.6	35.9	35.8	36.0	37.6	34.6	38.6	35.1	39.6	40.2	39.2
April	36.0	35.4	35.1	35.7	37.4	33.8	38.5	34.8	38.2	38.1	38.3
May	37.4	36.7	36.4	36.9	38.0	35.4	38.7	36.4	40.2	41.3	39.3
June	37.7	36.7	36.2	37.1	38.0	35.2	39.1	36.7	41.2	42.5	39.9
July	38.2	37.2	36.8	37.4	38.3	35.8	39.7	37.0	42.1	43.4	40.8
August	37.7	36.7	36.6	36.7	38.2	35.3	39.8	35.8	41.6	43.0	40.3
September	38.5	37.4	37.0	37.6	38.8	35.7	39.9	37.1	42.8	44.6	41.1
October	37.5	36.3	35.9	36.6	38.5	34.9	40.0	35.6	41.6	42.6	40.6
AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS											
Year: 1953	$2.43	$2.48	$2.34	$2.59	$2.58	$2.51	$2.84	$2.55	$2.24	$2.07	$2.37
1954	2.54	2.60	2.47	2.70	2.71	2.62	2.92	2.64	2.31	2.14	2.44
1954: October	2.56	2.63	2.51	2.71	2.72	2.65	2.95	2.65	2.33	2.16	2.47
November	2.57	2.63	2.51	2.71	2.72	2.65	2.96	2.66	2.34	2.18	2.47
December	2.59	2.65	2.53	2.73	2.77	2.68	2.92	2.66	2.33	2.13	2.47
1955: January	2.59	2.65	2.53	2.73	2.78	2.66	2.92	2.65	2.31	2.09	2.45
February	2.59	2.65	2.51	2.73	2.75	2.68	2.92	2.68	2.33	2.09	2.47
March	2.57	2.63	2.49	2.72	2.75	2.67	2.93	2.66	2.31	2.07	2.48
April	2.57	2.63	2.49	2.72	2.76	2.67	2.93	2.67	2.34	2.15	2.49
May	2.57	2.63	2.48	2.73	2.77	2.68	2.95	2.68	2.34	2.18	2.49
June	2.57	2.64	2.49	2.74	2.78	2.71	2.95	2.68	2.34	2.21	2.47
July	2.59	2.66	2.50	2.77	2.83	2.71	2.98	2.72	2.36	2.24	2.48
August	2.60	2.67	2.52	2.78	2.81	2.74	2.98	2.73	2.38	2.25	2.51
September	2.62	2.69	2.53	2.79	2.83	2.78	3.03	2.73	2.39	2.29	2.50
October	2.63	2.70	2.54	2.80	2.83	2.78	3.04	2.74	2.40	2.28	2.52
Percent change, October 1954 to 1955											
Avg. wkly. earnings	+3.0	+1.8	-0.5	+3.0	+5.1	+4.6	+5.7	+2.8	+6.1	+12.1	+1.8
Avg. wkly. hours	+.3	-.8	-1.6	-.3	+1.0	-.3	+2.6	-.6	+3.0	+6.2	-.2
Avg. hrly. earnings	+2.7	+2.7	+1.2	+3.3	+4.0	+4.9	+3.1	+3.4	+3.0	+5.6	+2.0

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 41.--Registered Apprentices in the Building Trades, by State and Territory, and Trade

State and territory	Number of apprentices registered and active at end of 3d quar. [1]		
	1953	1954	1955 [2]
Total	**90,255**	**88,911**	**96,749**
Alabama	1,612	1,313	1,196
Alaska	164	211	275
Arizona	880	1,039	1,138
Arkansas	539	405	507
California	11,742	10,799	13,324
Colorado	1,018	958	1,207
Connecticut	2,106	2,147	(3)
Delaware	136	144	211
District of Columbia	1,191	1,202	1,324
Florida	2,367	2,521	2,735
Georgia	2,775	2,101	2,033
Hawaii	335	324	308
Idaho	277	242	270
Illinois	6,048	6,876	7,567
Indiana	1,422	1,368	1,559
Iowa	894	946	959
Kansas	484	558	806
Kentucky	1,315	1,110	1,297
Louisiana	1,631	1,820	1,506
Maine	168	195	285
Maryland	1,306	1,270	1,319
Massachusetts	2,372	2,337	2,325
Michigan	3,326	3,855	4,333
Minnesota	2,433	2,380	2,739
Mississippi	461	377	357
Missouri	1,943	2,030	2,601
Montana	420	511	522
Nebraska	511	504	637
Nevada	196	223	330
New Hampshire	83	94	117
New Jersey	2,021	1,985	2,110
New Mexico	539	447	581
New York	(3)	(3)	(3)
North Carolina	1,734	1,482	1,727
North Dakota	49	47	113
Ohio	6,168	6,599	7,084
Oklahoma	866	730	824
Oregon	810	856	1,011
Pennsylvania	3,321	3,556	3,771
Rhode Island	403	419	494
South Carolina	1,045	866	693
South Dakota	106	122	179
Tennessee	2,268	1,916	1,858
Texas	4,376	4,023	4,649
Utah	659	600	720
Vermont	120	97	96
Virginia	1,439	1,305	1,288
Washington	2,118	1,953	2,362
West Virginia	464	445	440
Wisconsin	2,127	2,158	(3)
Wyoming	242	220	235

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 41--Registered Apprentices in the Building Trades, by State and Territory, and Trade--Continued

State and territory	Number of apprentices registered and active at end of 3d quarter, selected trades											
	1954						1955 [2]					
	Carpenter	Electrician	Painter and paperhanger	Plumber and pipefitter	Sheet metal worker	Trowel trades [4]	Carpenter	Electrician	Painter and paperhanger	Plumber and pipefitter	Sheet metal worker	Trowel trades [4]
Total	20,368	14,581	3,534	17,783	8,343	9,165	25,415	16,372	4,508	20,982	10,179	11,639
Alabama	415	224	70	230	133	112	377	185	72	196	134	84
Alaska	87	33	6	51	8	0	127	35	15	56	9	2
Arizona	371	257	84	136	75	58	441	195	91	150	94	83
Arkansas	96	62	35	68	16	26	99	52	48	101	34	37
California	4,014	1,252	654	2,182	1,244	605	5,194	1,331	1,063	2,482	1,501	823
Colorado	170	102	33	187	200	105	250	149	38	219	215	134
Connecticut	645	220	151	481	239	242	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Delaware	35	19	17	33	21	20	41	36	20	47	26	32
Dist. of Col.	220	216	40	255	86	181	197	228	45	315	82	250
Florida	655	888	42	378	213	252	716	852	48	402	260	235
Georgia	335	658	48	401	171	175	348	670	40	377	180	157
Hawaii	81	92	14	75	39	12	95	81	4	64	52	4
Idaho	65	66	15	45	35	9	78	65	19	42	27	24
Illinois	1,477	1,305	347	1,478	527	1,388	1,451	1,335	339	1,842	614	1,523
Indiana	212	291	71	238	228	309	333	272	89	265	242	323
Iowa	266	123	55	212	120	102	301	107	45	213	128	99
Kansas	172	85	17	104	64	75	277	83	51	130	75	143
Kentucky	250	241	35	331	121	109	281	364	48	356	118	108
Louisiana	466	391	55	394	119	211	338	347	58	305	110	186
Maine	17	78	0	58	13	8	25	82	1	82	51	14
Maryland	212	354	42	312	77	242	250	288	47	314	92	281
Massachusetts	402	451	46	675	246	287	432	412	62	663	238	256
Michigan	891	597	97	723	524	606	1,179	620	170	787	591	604
Minnesota	463	508	148	553	345	252	642	531	147	550	351	300
Mississippi	111	120	0	81	24	28	93	85	0	96	31	28
Missouri	616	241	144	379	276	242	774	303	188	471	382	320
Montana	220	81	40	86	52	20	207	89	35	95	57	25
Nebraska	131	77	21	96	61	77	182	97	22	82	118	91
Nevada	63	96	8	38	14	0	97	107	15	44	62	0
New Hampshire	25	3	0	60	0	0	42	3	0	64	0	0
New Jersey	622	184	24	436	260	356	632	241	26	498	238	349
New Mexico	118	167	26	58	24	11	158	185	35	67	31	22
New York	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
North Carolina	251	437	44	313	162	185	304	492	43	355	220	213
North Dakota	8	0	0	19	0	20	27	22	0	41	0	20
Ohio	1,281	1,004	201	1,796	778	1,055	1,406	1,046	241	1,921	803	960
Oklahoma	190	80	23	127	116	60	199	86	14	122	107	72
Oregon	172	217	54	153	155	46	188	251	67	163	173	65
Pennsylvania	893	469	53	1,218	273	452	802	555	62	1,352	293	490
Rhode Island	156	50	16	129	35	24	188	59	21	155	37	23
South Carolina	99	311	6	254	45	130	93	205	5	185	63	122
South Dakota	29	19	7	32	12	8	63	12	18	43	13	15
Tennessee	582	509	103	288	138	151	568	476	79	314	128	156
Texas	853	840	227	1,036	308	362	1,126	904	319	1,103	380	407
Utah	216	66	54	90	77	52	273	84	60	116	100	37
Vermont	28	9	0	42	5	3	28	13	2	42	6	2
Virginia	180	348	56	336	154	117	168	354	45	314	167	138
Washington	777	307	132	268	161	107	961	340	117	312	185	172
West Virginia	187	95	14	128	60	25	82	92	18	135	57	20
Wisconsin	442	309	153	686	262	229	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Wyoming	101	29	6	34	27	19	102	32	5	38	30	19

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes data for trades not shown separately. [2] Totals include estimates for Connecticut, New York and Wisconsin. [3] Data not available. [4] Covers brick, stone, and tile workers; cement masons; and plasterers.

Construction Regulations

HLBB Eased Restrictions on Mortgage Lending by Savings and Loan Associations. (Federal Home Loan Bank Board press release issued December 13, 1955.)

On December 13, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board announced a new credit policy which eased restrictions imposed last September on borrowing by the 4,300 member savings and loan associations from district banks for mortgage lending purposes. (See Construction Review, Vol. 1, No. 10, October 1955, p. 50.)

The new ruling allows member institutions to borrow from the Federal Home Loan Bank System for mortgage lending, an amount equal to 5 percent of their savings capital, provided their total borrowings from the System do not exceed 10 percent of their savings capital. In September, the savings and loan associations had been asked to rely entirely on their own resources (savings deposits and loan repayments) to finance any new housing credit.

FHA Underwriting Requirements Eased on Sec. 207 Rental Housing. (Federal Housing Administration press release No. 55-92, dated December 20, 1955.)

The Federal Housing Administration announced on December 20 that, as a means of expediting the campaign against neighborhood blight, it has lowered requirements for underwriting insurance under Sec. 207 of the National Housing Act, covering multiple dwelling units or apartment houses designed for 12 families or more. The new ruling reduced from 50 percent to 25 percent the part of the proceeds of the loan to be used for repairs or rehabilitation of the property, to provide a greater incentive for improving old apartment houses in slum or declining areas. Even though they may be old-style, the buildings must be structurally sound and in well located neighborhoods, to be eligible for FHA insurance.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1956 - 3